General Assembly

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9 January 2015

Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 124

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 11 December 2014

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/69/L.17 and Add.1)*]

69/131. International Day of Yoga

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 66/2 of 19 September 2011 on the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases and 68/98 of 11 December 2013 on global health and foreign policy,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries,

Noting the importance of individuals and populations making healthier choices and following lifestyle patterns that foster good health,

Underscoring the fact that global health is a long-term development objective that requires closer international cooperation through the exchange of best practices aimed at building better individual lifestyles devoid of excesses of all kinds,

Recognizing that yoga provides a holistic approach to health and well-being,

Recognizing also that wider dissemination of information about the benefits of practising yoga would be beneficial for the health of the world population,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 21 June the International Day of Yoga;

2. *Invites* all Member and observer States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe the International Day of Yoga, in an appropriate manner and in accordance with national priorities, in order to raise awareness of the benefits of practising yoga;

3. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution should be met from voluntary contributions;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member and observer States and the organizations of the United Nations system.

69th plenary meeting
11 December 2014

14-67019 (E)

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 11 December 2014

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/69/L.35 and Add.1)*]

69/132. Global health and foreign policy

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 63/33 of 26 November 2008, 64/108 of 10 December 2009, 65/95 of 9 December 2010, 66/115 of 12 December 2011, 67/81 of 12 December 2012 and 68/98 of 11 December 2013, and reaffirming the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits which have contributed to the advancement of the global health agenda as noted in these resolutions,

Recalling also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] international humanitarian law, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[2] and the Constitution of the World Health Organization,[3]

Reaffirming the right of every human being, without distinction of any kind, to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of oneself and one's family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions,

Underscoring the responsibility of Member States to build resilient national health systems and strengthen national capacities through attention to, inter alia, service delivery, health systems financing, including appropriate budgetary allocations, the health workforce, health information systems, the procurement and distribution of medicines, vaccines and technologies, sexual and reproductive health-care services and political will in leadership and governance, and recognizing the value and importance of universal health coverage in providing access to quality health services, while ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the users to financial hardship, with a special emphasis on the members of the poor, vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population,

Recognizing that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development and that, despite progress made, challenges in global health, including major inequities and vulnerabilities within

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 14, No. 221.

14-67021 (E)

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and among countries, regions and populations, still remain and demand persistent attention,

Noting the role of the Foreign Policy and Global Health Initiative in promoting synergy between foreign policy and global health and that health inequities within and between countries cannot only be addressed within the health sector by technical measures, or only at the national level, but also require global engagement for health, which is rooted in global solidarity and shared responsibility,

Reaffirming the commitment to the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals, welcoming progress made in the areas of the Goals that concern health, which are key to achieving all the Goals, and stressing the need to further support initiatives aimed at accelerating progress for their achievement,

Recalling its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals[4] and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Underscoring the importance of enhanced international cooperation to support the efforts of Member States to achieve health goals, implement universal access to health services and address health challenges while taking into account different national realities and capacities and respecting national policies and priorities,

Noting the important role that well-coordinated, multistakeholder partnerships with a broad range of actors, including national Governments, local authorities, international institutions, business, civil society organizations, foundations, philanthropists and social impact investors, scientists and academics and individuals, can play in development, supporting public health priorities that contribute to better health outcomes,

Reaffirming the right to use, to the fullest extent, the provisions contained in the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement), the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organization of 30 August 2003 on the implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health and, when formal acceptance procedures are completed, the amendment to article 31 of the TRIPS Agreement, as proposed by the General Council of the World Trade Organization in its decision of 6 December 2005, which provide flexibilities for the protection of public health, and in particular to promote access to medicines for all, and to encourage the provision of assistance to developing countries in this regard, and calling for broad and timely acceptance of the amendment to article 31 of the TRIPS Agreement,

Recognizing that the protection of intellectual property can be important in the development of new medicines,

Recognizing also that attacks upon medical and health personnel result in long-lasting impacts, including the loss of life and human suffering, weaken the

[4] A/68/970 and Corr.1.

ability of health systems to deliver essential life-saving services and produce setbacks for health development, and recalling in that regard General Assembly resolution 68/101 of 13 December 2013 on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel, as well as World Health Assembly resolution 65.20 of 26 May 2012,[5]

Noting that attacking, threatening or otherwise preventing medical and health personnel from fulfilling their medical duties undermines their physical safety and the integrity of their professional codes of ethics, and that this impedes the attainment of the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, as well as being a barrier to universal access to health services,

Reaffirming that Member States are responsible for ensuring the protection of the health, safety and welfare of their people and the resilience and self-reliance of the health system and access to health services, which is critical for minimizing health hazards and vulnerabilities and delivering effective prevention, response and recovery in emergencies and disasters,

Expressing deep concern over the current outbreak of the Ebola virus disease, which demonstrates the urgency of having strong health systems capable of implementing the International Health Regulations, pandemic preparedness and universal health coverage that promotes universal access to health services, which would assist in the prevention and detection of possible outbreaks, as well as of having motivated, well-trained and appropriately equipped health workers, and emphasizing the need for Member States and other relevant institutions to extend urgently all possible means of support to the affected countries to end the Ebola outbreak, while noting the importance of evidence-based responses to prevent fear, stigma and discrimination,

Taking note of multisectoral efforts, including the Global Health Security Agenda, to strenghten global capacity to prevent, detect and respond to infectious diseases, in particular by promoting sustainable and resilient national health systems, surveillance systems and response protocols,

Stressing that the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, the development of resilient health systems and advancement of the attainment of universal health coverage are enhanced by the respect of Member States, non-State actors and private individuals for the integrity and safety of medical and health personnel in carrying out their duties and of their means of transport and installations,

Acknowledging the need to prevent and address the exposure of health workers to hazardous working environments and violent incidents and the consequent trauma suffered by them in various forms, through, for example, improved specific training in public health administration and services, patient management and other health-worker support mechanisms, so as to ensure the safety, productivity and efficiency of the workforce and improved access to health-care services,

Stressing that medical and health personnel have a duty to provide competent medical service in full professional and moral independence, with compassion and respect for human dignity, and always to bear in mind human life and to act in the patient's best interest under their respective professional codes of ethics,

[5] See World Health Organization, document WHA65/2012/REC/1.

Reaffirming the rules and principles of international humanitarian law, including the provisions of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 [6] and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977 [7] and 2005, [8] as applicable, as well as international customary law concerned with the protection of medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, hospitals and other medical facilities,

Reaffirming also the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in the provision of humanitarian assistance and the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of humanitarian emergencies, armed conflicts and natural disasters to promote and fully respect these principles,

Deploring acts of violence or threats of violence against medical and health personnel worldwide in armed conflict and emergency situations, and stressing that such acts are detrimental to the development of sustainable health systems and the integrity of the professional codes of ethics of medical and health personnel,

Noting that locally recruited humanitarian personnel and health-care personnel are particularly vulnerable to attacks and account for the majority of casualties among humanitarian and health-care workers,

Recognizing that one of the most serious threats to medical and health personnel is posed by armed conflicts, acknowledging the risk to such personnel in situations that do not constitute armed conflict, and noting that it is the responsibility of national Governments to carry out appropriate preventive and remedial measures,

Reaffirming the role of the World Health Organization as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work in accordance with its Constitution, and acknowledging the key role of the Organization and other relevant international organizations in providing support to Member States, as appropriate and upon request, in the development and implementation of preventive measures to promote the safety of medical and health personnel, their means of transport and installations and respect for their respective professional codes of ethics,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director General of the World Health Organization on global health and foreign policy;[9]

2. *Urges* Member States to protect, promote and respect the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and to consider health in a holistic manner, including by considering health issues in the formulation of foreign policy;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to promote adequate incentives and an enabling and safe working environment for the effective retention and equitable distribution of the health workforce and to implement the World Health Organization Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[7] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

[8] Ibid., vol. 2404, No. 43425.

[9] A/69/405.

Personnel[10] as a guide to strengthen health systems through sustainable access to qualified personnel;

4. *Invites* the World Health Organization to provide technical support to Member States upon request in order to strengthen their capacity to deal with public health emergencies and the implementation of the International Health Regulations, with particular focus on developing countries, in order to build capacity, strengthen health systems and promote financial sustainability, training, recruitment and retention of human resources for health and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms;

5. *Calls for* the development and attainment by Member States of resilient and sustainable health systems that accelerate the transition towards universal health coverage in such a way as to ensure undisrupted and accessible services for their populations, and stresses that medical and health personnel should be able to offer appropriate assistance without obstruction, threat or physical attack and in line with their respective professional codes of ethics and scope of practice;

6. *Calls for* all Member States and all stakeholders to respect the integrity of medical and health personnel in carrying out their duties in line with their respective professional codes of ethics and scope of practice;

7. *Recalls* World Health Assembly resolution 65.20,[5] which calls for leadership to be provided at the global level in developing methods for systematic collection of data on attacks on health facilities, health workers, health vehicles and patients in complex humanitarian emergencies, in coordination with relevant United Nations bodies, other relevant actors and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, avoiding duplication of efforts;

8. *Strongly condemns* all attacks on medical and health personnel, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, and deplores the long-term consequences of such attacks for the population and health-care systems of the countries concerned;

9. *Urges* full respect for the rules and principles of international humanitarian law, including the provisions of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949[6] and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977[7] and 2005,[8] as applicable, stresses the obligation, in accordance with international humanitarian law and applicable national laws and regulations, to respect and protect medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, in all circumstances, notes in this regard the role of domestic legal frameworks and other appropriate measures in promoting the safety and protection of such personnel, and urges States to develop effective measures to prevent and address violence against such personnel;

10. *Urges* Member States, in accordance with obligations under relevant provisions of international human rights law, including the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, to promote equal access to health services and to respect and protect medical and health personnel from obstruction, threats and physical attacks;

[10] World Health Organization, document WHA63/2010/REC/1, annex 5.

11. *Invites* the World Health Organization and other relevant international organizations to develop their capacity to assist Member States, including through the promotion of research, and, upon request and through technical cooperation and other means, to develop appropriate preventive measures to enhance and promote the safety and protection of medical and health personnel, their means of transport and installations, to improve the resilience of health systems and to promote the effective implementation of universal health coverage;

12. *Notes* that challenges in global health still remain and demand persistent attention, and that this urgently requires the fulfilment of commitments to strengthen the global partnership for development, emphasizing in particular in this regard North-South cooperation, as well as the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation and the exchange of best practices, as well as capacity-building and the transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms, to address health inequities in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development, in line with national priorities;

13. *Urges* Member States, in cooperation, as appropriate, with relevant international organizations and relevant non-State actors, to develop effective preventive measures to enhance and promote the safety and protection of medical and health personnel, as well as respect for their respective professional codes of ethics, including but not restricted to:

(*a*) Clear and universally recognized definitions and norms for the identification and marking of medical and health personnel, their means of transport and installations;

(*b*) Specific and appropriate educational measures for medical and health personnel, State employees and the general population;

(*c*) Appropriate measures for the physical protection of medical and health personnel, their means of transport and installations;

(*d*) Other appropriate measures, such as national legal frameworks where warranted, to effectively address violence against medical and health personnel;

(*e*) Collection of data on obstruction, threats and physical attacks on health workers;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the Director General of the World Health Organization, to submit a report on the protection of health workers, which compiles and analyses the experiences of Member States and presents recommendations for action to be taken by relevant stakeholders, including appropriate preventive measures.

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 12 December 2014

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/69/L.33 and Add.1)*]

69/133. Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 on the strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations,

Recalling all relevant resolutions on safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel, including its resolution 68/101 of 13 December 2013, as well as Security Council resolutions on the protection of humanitarian personnel, including resolution 2175 (2014) of 29 August 2014, and relevant statements by the President of the Council,

Recalling also all Security Council resolutions and presidential statements and reports of the Secretary-General to the Council on the protection of civilians in armed conflict,

Reaffirming the principles, rules and relevant provisions of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, as well as all relevant treaties,[1] and the need to further promote and ensure respect thereof,

Recalling the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[2] and the Additional Protocols thereto of 8 June 1977,[3] and the obligation of parties to armed conflict to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in all circumstances, and urging all such parties to comply with international humanitarian law and ensure respect for and protection of all humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel,

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[1] These include, notably, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations of 13 February 1946, the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies of 21 November 1947, the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel of 9 December 1994, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel of 8 December 2005, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949 and the Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 8 June 1977, and Amended Protocol II of 3 May 1996 to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects of 10 October 1980, as applicable.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[3] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

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Deeply concerned by the continuous erosion, in many cases, of respect for the principles and rules of international law, in particular international humanitarian law,

Reaffirming the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Recalling that primary responsibility under international law for the security and protection of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel lies with the Government hosting a United Nations operation conducted under the Charter of the United Nations or its agreements with relevant organizations,

Expressing its appreciation to those Governments which respect the internationally agreed principles on the protection of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, while expressing concern over the lack of respect for these principles in some areas,

Noting the fact that the number of States parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,[4] which entered into force on 15 January 1999, has reached 91, mindful of the need to promote the universality of the Convention, and welcoming the entry into force on 19 August 2010 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,[5] which expands the scope of legal protection under the Convention,

Expressing deep concern at the threats and security risks faced by humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, and the unprecedented increase in the scale and the increasingly complex nature of the threats faced by such personnel at the field level, as they operate in increasingly high-risk environments, and noting that the majority of such incidents continue to affect locally recruited personnel,

Expressing deep concern also that the occurrence of attacks and threats against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel is a factor that severely restricts the provision of assistance and protection to populations in need, and commending the commitment of the United Nations and other humanitarian personnel to stay and deliver the most critical programmes even in dangerous environments,

Stressing the need to uphold the respect and protection which the flag of the United Nations, and the nature of humanitarian work, should command and ensure, and stressing the importance of fully respecting the obligations relating to the use of vehicles and premises of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel as defined by relevant international instruments, as well as the obligations relating to distinctive emblems recognized in the Geneva Conventions,

Commending the courage and commitment of those who take part in humanitarian operations, often at great personal risk, especially national and locally recruited personnel,

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[4] Ibid., vol. 2051, No. 35457.

[5] Resolution 60/42, annex.

Commending also the courage and commitment of those who take part in peace operations, including peacekeeping operations,[6] often at great personal risk, especially national and locally recruited personnel,

Noting with concern that, despite the decrease in the number of the United Nations system personnel affected by security incidents in 2013, 1,216 persons, representing 0.8 per cent of the United Nations system personnel, were still affected by significant security incidents, with 28 personnel killed, 226 injured and 17 abducted,[7]

Strongly condemning all attacks against humanitarian personnel, expressing profound regret at the deaths, injuries and abductions resulting from these attacks, and noting with concern that the number of attacks against humanitarian personnel in 2013 was the highest ever recorded, with at least 155 personnel killed, 171 injured and 134 abducted,

Strongly condemning also all attacks against medical personnel and humanitarian personnel engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, and deploring the long-term consequences of such attacks for the population and health-care systems of the countries concerned,

Expressing profound regret at the deaths of humanitarian personnel and health-care personnel as a result of public health hazards such as the current outbreak of the Ebola virus disease, and stressing the need for a conducive environment, appropriate equipment and resilient public health systems and the urgency of preparedness,

Expressing deep concern at the deep and long-lasting impacts of attacks and threats against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel,

Strongly condemning acts of murder and other forms of violence, rape and sexual assault and all forms of violence committed in particular against women and children, and intimidation, armed robbery, abduction, hostage-taking, kidnapping, harassment and illegal arrest and detention to which those participating in humanitarian operations are exposed, as well as attacks on humanitarian convoys and acts of destruction and looting of property,

Affirming the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of attacks committed on their territory against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel and against their premises or assets do not operate with impunity, and that the perpetrators of such acts are brought to justice, as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law,

Recalling the inclusion of attacks intentionally directed against personnel involved in a humanitarian assistance or peacekeeping mission in accordance with the Charter, as long as they are entitled to the protection given to civilians or civilian objects under the international law of armed conflict, as a war crime in the

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[6] The safety and security of United Nations peacekeepers is specifically addressed in the annual report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/68/19)). Except where otherwise specified, the present resolution focuses only on the safety and security of civilian United Nations and associated personnel falling under the United Nations security management system under the responsibility of the Department of Safety and Security of the Secretariat.

[7] See A/69/406, para. 12.

Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[8] and noting the role that the Court can play in appropriate cases in bringing to justice those responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law,

Reaffirming the need to ensure adequate levels of safety and security for United Nations personnel and associated personnel, including locally recruited staff, which constitutes an underlying duty of the Organization, and mindful of the need to promote and enhance security consciousness within the organizational culture of the United Nations and a culture of accountability at all levels, as well as to continue to promote awareness of and sensitivity to national and local cultures and laws,

Gravely concerned at the high number of accidents and resulting casualties among United Nations and associated personnel, and conscious of the importance of road safety and aviation safety in ensuring the continuity of United Nations operations and preventing casualties among civilians and United Nations and associated personnel, and in this regard regretting the loss of civilian life as a result of such incidents,

Stressing that acceptance of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel by the host Governments, local authorities, local communities, populations and other parties as appropriate crucially contributes to their safety and security,

Noting the importance of reinforcing close collaboration between the United Nations and the host country on contingency planning, information exchange and risk assessment in the context of good mutual cooperation on issues relating to the security of United Nations and associated personnel,

Noting also that the effective functioning of the United Nations security management system requires, among other elements, an effective management structure, adequate and predictable resources and the timely deployment of security personnel with appropriate skills and field experience and of the equipment necessary for the performance of their duties, including vehicles and telecommunications equipment, which have an essential role in facilitating the safety of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;[9]

2. *Urges* all States to make every effort to ensure the full and effective implementation of the relevant principles and rules of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, and refugee law as applicable, related to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations personnel;

3. *Condemns in the strongest possible terms* the alarming increase in threats to and deliberate targeting of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel and the unprecedented increase in the scale and the increasingly complex nature of threats faced by such personnel, such as the disturbing trend of politically and criminally motivated attacks, including extremist attacks, against them;

4. *Strongly urges* all States to take the necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of national and international humanitarian personnel and United

[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

[9] A/69/406.

Nations and associated personnel and to respect and ensure respect for the inviolability of United Nations premises, which are essential to the continuation and successful implementation of United Nations operations;

5. *Calls upon* all Governments and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflicts and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel and the delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow those personnel to perform efficiently their task of assisting the affected civilian population, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

6. *Calls upon* all States to consider becoming parties to and to respect fully their obligations under the relevant international instruments;

7. *Also calls upon* all States to consider becoming parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;[8]

8. *Further calls upon* all States to consider becoming parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel,[5] and urges States parties to put in place appropriate national legislation, as necessary, to enable its effective implementation;

9. *Calls upon* all States, all parties involved in armed conflict and all humanitarian actors to respect the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence for the provision of humanitarian assistance;

10. *Welcomes* the contribution of female humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel in humanitarian and United Nations operations, expresses concern that in some cases these personnel are relatively more exposed to certain forms of crime and acts of intimidation and harassment, and strongly urges the United Nations system and Member States to take appropriate and gender-sensitive action for their safety and security;

11. *Strongly condemns* all threats and acts of violence against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, also condemns attacks intentionally directed against personnel involved in a peacekeeping mission[6] in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations as long as they are entitled to protection from attack under international humanitarian law, reaffirms the need to prosecute, penalize and punish those responsible for such acts, strongly urges all States to take stronger action to ensure that crimes against such personnel do not remain unpunished and are investigated fully, and affirms the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of any such acts committed on their territory do not operate with impunity, as provided by national laws and obligations under international law;

12. *Stresses* the importance of continued close coordination and consultation with host Governments on the functioning of the security level system and related tools, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to continue to consult with the host Governments;

13. *Calls upon* all States to comply fully with their obligations under international humanitarian law, including as provided by the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,[10] in

[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

order to respect and protect civilians, including humanitarian personnel, in territories subject to their jurisdiction;

14. *Stresses* the obligation, in accordance with international humanitarian law and national laws and regulations as applicable, to respect and protect medical personnel, as well as humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, in all circumstances, in this regard notes the role of domestic legal frameworks and other appropriate measures in promoting the safety and protection of such personnel, and urges States to develop effective measures to prevent and address violence against such personnel;

15. *Calls upon* all States to provide adequate and prompt information in the event of the arrest or detention of humanitarian personnel or United Nations and associated personnel, so as to afford them the necessary medical assistance and to allow independent medical teams to visit and examine the health of those detained, and to ensure their right to legal counsel, and urges States to take the necessary measures to ensure the speedy release of those who have been arrested or detained in violation of the relevant conventions referred to in the present resolution and applicable international humanitarian law;

16. *Calls upon* all other parties involved in armed conflict to refrain from abducting, taking hostage or kidnapping humanitarian personnel or United Nations and associated personnel or detaining them in violation of the relevant conventions referred to in the present resolution and applicable international humanitarian law, and speedily to release, without harm or requirement of concession, any abductee or detainee;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to promote full respect for the human rights, privileges and immunities of United Nations and associated personnel, and also requests the Secretary-General to seek the inclusion, in negotiations of headquarters and other mission agreements concerning United Nations and associated personnel, of the applicable conditions contained in the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations,[11] the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies[12] and the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel;[4]

18. *Recommends* that the Secretary-General continue to seek the inclusion of, and that host countries include, key provisions of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, among others, those regarding the prevention of attacks against members of the operation, the establishment of such attacks as crimes punishable by law and the prosecution or extradition of offenders, in future as well as, if necessary, in existing status-of-forces, status-of-mission, host country and other related agreements negotiated between the United Nations and those countries, mindful of the importance of the timely conclusion of such agreements, and encourages further efforts in this regard;

19. *Calls attention to and reaffirms* the obligation of all humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel to respect and, where

[11] Resolution 22 A (I).

[12] Resolution 179 (II).

required, observe the national laws of the country in which they are operating, in accordance with international law and the Charter;

20. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring that humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are aware and respectful of national and local customs and traditions in their countries of assignment and communicate clearly their purpose and objectives to local populations in order to enhance their acceptance, thereby contributing to their safety and security, and in this regard ensure that humanitarian action is guided by humanitarian principles;

21. *Urges* the United Nations and other relevant humanitarian actors to include as part of their risk-management strategy the building of good relations and trust with national and local governments and the promotion of acceptance by local communities and all relevant actors with a view to enhancing safety and security;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take the necessary measures to ensure that United Nations and other personnel carrying out activities in fulfilment of the mandate of a United Nations operation are properly informed about and operate in conformity with the minimum operating security standards and relevant codes of conduct and are properly informed about the conditions under which they are called upon to operate and the standards that they are required to meet, including those contained in relevant national laws and international law, and that adequate training in security, human rights law and international humanitarian law is provided so as to enhance their security and effectiveness in accomplishing their functions, and reaffirms the necessity for all other humanitarian organizations to provide their personnel with similar support;

23. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue, in coordination with Member States, to take the necessary measures to ensure that all United Nations premises and assets, including staff residences, are compliant with the United Nations minimum operating security standards and other relevant United Nations security standards, and to continue the ongoing assessment of the United Nations premises and physical security worldwide;

24. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General to ensure that all United Nations personnel receive adequate safety and security training, stresses the need to continue to improve training so as to enhance cultural awareness and knowledge of relevant law, including international humanitarian law, prior to their deployment to the field, and reaffirms the necessity for all other humanitarian organizations to provide their personnel with similar support;

25. *Also welcomes* the efforts of the Secretary-General to provide counselling and support services to United Nations personnel affected by safety and security incidents, and emphasizes the importance of making available stress management, mental health and related services for United Nations personnel throughout the system, and encourages all humanitarian organizations to provide their personnel with similar support;

26. *Notes with appreciation* the ongoing measures taken by the Secretary-General and the United Nations system to enhance road safety, including through improved training and initiatives to promote road safety so as to reduce incidents caused by road hazards and, in particular, to reduce casualties or injuries resulting from these incidents among United Nations and associated personnel and among the civilian population in the host country, and requests the Secretary-General to continue the collection and analysis of data and to report on road incidents, including civilian casualties resulting from road accidents;

27. *Welcomes* the progress made towards further enhancing the security management system of the United Nations, and supports the continued implementation of the good practice to stay and deliver while focusing on effectively managing the risks to which personnel are exposed in order to enable the United Nations system to deliver the most critical programmes, even in high-risk environments;

28. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue consistent implementation of the programme criticality framework as an operational tool allowing informed decisions on acceptable risk to United Nations personnel;

29. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to develop enabling procedures that facilitate the deployment of suitably qualified United Nations security personnel, with the aim of improving the safety and security measures of the United Nations, in order to strengthen the ability of the United Nations to deliver on its programmes, mandates and activities, including humanitarian programmes;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General, inter alia through the Inter-Agency Security Management Network, to continue the increased cooperation and collaboration among United Nations departments, organizations, funds and programmes and affiliated international organizations, including between their headquarters and field offices, in the planning and implementation of measures aimed at improving staff security, training and awareness, and calls upon all relevant United Nations departments, organizations, funds and programmes and affiliated international organizations to support those efforts;

31. *Calls upon* all relevant actors to make every effort to support in their public statements a favourable environment for the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel;

32. *Emphasizes* the need to pay particular attention to the safety and security of locally recruited humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, who account for the large majority of casualties and who are particularly vulnerable to attacks, including in cases of kidnapping, harassment, banditry and intimidation, requests the Secretary-General to keep under review the relevant United Nations safety and security policy and to enhance the safety and security of locally recruited personnel, while maintaining operational effectiveness, and calls upon the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to ensure that their personnel are adequately consulted on, informed about and trained in the relevant security measures, plans and initiatives of their respective organizations, which should be in line with applicable national laws and international law;

33. *Notes with appreciation* the progress reported in implementing the recommendations of the Independent Panel on Safety and Security of United Nations Personnel and Premises Worldwide;

34. *Requests* the Department of Safety and Security of the Secretariat to further strengthen the security management of the United Nations, focusing on strengthening security risk management policy and tools as well as their application, increasing situational awareness and analysis capacity, strengthening policy development and promoting best practices, increasing compliance with minimum operating security standards and improving monitoring and evaluation, enhancing surge capacity for emergency response, devising effective physical security measures, developing the expertise of security professionals and strengthening support to the designated officials and the security management teams in the field,

and promoting an effective and preventive security management approach that is multidimensional;

35. *Welcomes* the work of the Secretary-General in enhancing security collaboration with host Governments, including efforts to support United Nations designated officials with regard to collaboration with host Government authorities on staff safety and security;

36. *Stresses* that the effective functioning at the country level of security operations requires a unified capacity for policy, standards, coordination, communication, compliance and threat and risk assessment, and notes the benefits thereof to United Nations and associated personnel, including those achieved by the Department of Safety and Security since its establishment;

37. *Welcomes* the steps taken by the Secretary-General thus far and encourages further efforts to enhance coordination and cooperation, at both the headquarters and the field levels, between the United Nations and other humanitarian and non-governmental organizations on matters relating to the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, with a view to addressing mutual security concerns in the field, based on the "Saving Lives Together" framework as well as other relevant national and local initiatives in this regard, and in this respect requests the Secretary-General to encourage further collaborative initiatives to address the security needs of implementing partners, including through enhanced information-sharing and, where appropriate, training, invites Member States to consider increasing support to those initiatives, and requests the Secretary-General to report on steps taken in this regard;

38. *Underlines* the urgent need to allocate adequate and predictable resources to the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, through regular and extrabudgetary resources, including through the consolidated appeals process, and encourages all States to contribute to the Trust Fund for Security of Staff Members of the United Nations System, inter alia, with a view to reinforcing the efforts of the Department of Safety and Security to meet its mandate and responsibilities to enable the safe delivery of programmes;

39. *Also underlines* the need for better coordination between the United Nations and host Governments, in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, on the use and deployment of essential equipment required to provide for the safety and security of United Nations personnel and associated personnel working in the delivery of humanitarian assistance by United Nations organizations;

40. *Calls upon* States to consider acceding to or ratifying the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations of 18 June 1998,[13] which entered into force on 8 January 2005, and urges them to facilitate and expedite, consistent with their national laws and international obligations applicable to them, the use of communications equipment in those and other relief operations, inter alia, by limiting and, whenever possible, expeditiously lifting the restrictions placed on the use of communications equipment by United Nations and associated personnel;

41. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a comprehensive and updated report on the safety and security of

[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2296, No. 40906.

humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel and on the implementation of the present resolution, including an assessment of the impact of safety and security risks on such personnel, and the development, implementation and outcomes of policies, strategies and initiatives of the United Nations system in the field of safety and security.

70th plenary meeting
12 December 2014

General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 January 2015

Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 69

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 12 December 2014

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/69/L.37 and Add.1)*]

69/134. Twentieth anniversary of the participation of volunteers, "White Helmets", in the activities of the United Nations in the field of humanitarian relief, rehabilitation and technical cooperation for development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 50/19 of 28 November 1995, 52/171 of 16 December 1997, 54/98 of 8 December 1999, 56/102 of 14 December 2001, 58/118 of 17 December 2003, 61/220 of 20 December 2006, 64/75 of 7 December 2009 and 67/84 of 13 December 2012,

Reaffirming also its resolutions 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 47/168 of 22 December 1992, 48/57 of 14 December 1993, 49/139 B of 20 December 1994, 50/57 of 12 December 1995 and 51/194 of 17 December 1996 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1995/56 of 28 July 1995 and 1996/33 of 25 July 1996,

Recalling its resolution 49/139 B, in which it welcomed the establishment of a national volunteer corps called "White Helmets", undertaken in order to strengthen the standby capacity of developing countries, to support United Nations activities in the area of humanitarian emergency assistance, as well as in the promotion of a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development,

Recalling also its resolution 66/67 of 5 December 2011 on the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers, in which it noted that the momentum created by the Year had contributed to the vibrancy of volunteerism globally with the involvement of more people, from a broader cross-section of societies,

Recognizing, in the light of the increasing number and growing magnitude and complexity of natural disasters and other emergencies, the need to utilize fully the national potential of countries to provide the United Nations system, on a standby basis, with support for its activities in the area of humanitarian emergency assistance, as well as in the promotion of a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, which should contribute to more coordinated responses in these fields,

Recalling its resolution 50/19, in which it encouraged voluntary national and regional actions aimed at making available to the United Nations system, through the United Nations Volunteers, national volunteer corps such as the White Helmets

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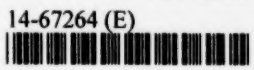

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on a standby basis, in accordance with accepted United Nations procedures and practices, in order to provide specialized human and technical resources for emergency relief and rehabilitation, and in that regard noted with satisfaction the establishment, in particular in developing countries, of national volunteer corps such as the White Helmets,

Recognizing the efforts being made by the White Helmets initiative to strengthen national, subregional and regional agreements in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Noting that in the 20 years since the launch of the White Helmets initiative, developing countries in a position to do so have shown a growing commitment to assisting communities in need through the provision of technical, human and material resources and cooperation, both in their fight against hunger and poverty and in the context of emergency response and international humanitarian assistance, and in this regard recognizing the efforts of the White Helmets initiative,

Welcomes the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of its first resolution on the White Helmets initiative,[1] and in line with resolution 67/84 reiterates its invitation that the Secretary-General, on the basis of the work experience acquired by the White Helmets in the international field, suggest measures to enhance the collaboration of the White Helmets initiative with the United Nations system and report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session in a separate section of the annual report on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

70th plenary meeting
12 December 2014

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[1] Resolution 49/139 B.

General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 January 2015

Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 69 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 12 December 2014

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/69/L.40 and Add.1)*]

69/135. Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, other relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Council,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations[1] and on the Central Emergency Response Fund,[2]

Reaffirming the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in the provision of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirming also the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies and natural disasters to promote and fully respect these principles,

Deeply concerned about global challenges, such as the ongoing adverse impact of the world financial and economic crisis, climate change, the negative impact of the volatile food prices on food security and nutrition and the rapid urbanization of populations, and about their effect on the increasing vulnerability of populations and impact on the need for and provision of humanitarian and development assistance,

Noting the substantial increase over the last decade in global humanitarian funding requirements, welcoming non-traditional donors, emphasizing the need to mobilize adequate, predictable, timely and flexible resources for humanitarian assistance, based on and in proportion to assessed needs, with a view to ensuring fuller coverage of the needs in all sectors and across humanitarian emergencies, and recognizing in this regard the achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund,

Emphasizing that strengthened needs analysis, risk management and strategic planning, in coordination with affected States, including through the use of open and

[1] A/69/80-E/2014/68.

[2] A/69/96.

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disaggregated data, are crucial elements to ensure a better informed, more effective, transparent and collective response to the needs of people affected by crises,

Reiterating the need for Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant actors to mainstream a gender perspective into humanitarian assistance, including by addressing the specific needs of women, girls, boys and men in a comprehensive and consistent manner, and to take into account the needs of affected populations, including persons with disabilities,

Expressing its deep concern about the increasing challenges faced by Member States and the United Nations humanitarian response system and their capacities as a result of the consequences of natural disasters, including those related to the continuing impact of climate change, and reaffirming the importance of implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[3] inter alia, by providing adequate resources for disaster risk reduction, including investment in disaster preparedness and capacity-building, and by working towards building back better in all phases from relief to development,

Expressing grave concern about the current unprecedented outbreak of the Ebola virus disease and its adverse impact on the affected countries, underscoring that the control of outbreaks of major infectious diseases requires proper early warning, preparedness, resilience-building, cross-sectoral action and greater national, regional and international collaboration, and in this regard stressing the continued need for a coordinated response to the Ebola outbreak,

Recognizing that developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, remain acutely vulnerable to natural hazards and need adequate international cooperation, as appropriate, to strengthen their resilience in this regard,

Recognizing also that economic growth and sustainable development are essential for the prevention of and preparedness for natural disasters and other emergencies,

Recognizing further, in this respect, that building national and local preparedness and response capacity through, inter alia, appropriate and conducive public policies and international assistance, is critical to a more predictable and effective response and contributes to the achievement of humanitarian and development objectives, including enhanced resilience and a reduced need for humanitarian response,

Emphasizing that enhancing international cooperation on emergency humanitarian assistance is essential, and reaffirming its resolution 68/103 of 13 December 2013 on international cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development,

Emphasizing also the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirming, in situations in which military capacity and assets are used as a last resort to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance, the need for their use to be undertaken with the consent of the affected State and in conformity with international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as humanitarian principles,

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[3] A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 2.

Condemning the increasing number of deliberate threats and violent attacks against humanitarian personnel and facilities, including medical personnel, their facilities and other humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, in a majority of cases affecting locally recruited personnel, noting with concern the negative implications for the provision of humanitarian assistance to populations in need, and in this regard welcoming the efforts such as the Health Care in Danger project of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, together with States, international and non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to strengthen compliance with international humanitarian law by raising awareness and promoting preparedness to address the grave and serious humanitarian consequences arising from such violence,

Recognizing the high number of people affected by humanitarian emergencies, including the increasing number of internally displaced persons, of whom a majority are women and children, who are forcibly displaced owing to conflict, persecution, violence and other reasons, including terrorism, and who are often displaced for protracted periods, wherein the national authorities have the primary duty and responsibility to provide protection and humanitarian assistance and promote durable solutions for internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, bearing in mind their particular needs,

Recognizing also the importance of the Geneva Conventions of 1949,[4] which include a vital legal framework for the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, including the provision of humanitarian assistance,

Noting with grave concern that violence, including gender-based violence, particularly sexual violence, and violence against children, continues to be deliberately directed against civilian populations during and after humanitarian situations,

Noting with appreciation the efforts that the United Nations continues to make to improve humanitarian response, including by strengthening humanitarian response capacities, improving humanitarian coordination, enhancing predictable and adequate funding and strengthening the accountability of all stakeholders, and recognizing the importance of strengthening emergency administrative procedures and funding to allow for an effective and needs-based response to emergencies,

Recognizing that, in strengthening the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the field, the organizations of the United Nations system should continue to consult and work in close coordination with national Governments,

1. *Welcomes* the outcome of the seventeenth humanitarian affairs segment of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2014;[5]

2. *Requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue her efforts to strengthen the coordination and accountability of humanitarian assistance and leadership within the United Nations humanitarian response system, including through the transformative agenda of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and calls upon relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, as well as other humanitarian and development actors, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

[5] See A/69/3, chap. VII. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 3*.

Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance;

3. *Also requests* the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue to improve dialogue with all Member States on the relevant processes, activities and deliberations of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

4. *Encourages* Member States and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to continue to improve dialogue and collaboration on humanitarian issues, including on policy, in order to foster a more consultative and inclusive approach to humanitarian assistance;

5. *Welcomes* the continued efforts by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to build partnerships with regional organizations and non-traditional donors and the private sector, and encourages Member States and the United Nations system to continue to strengthen partnerships at the global, regional, national and local levels in support of national efforts in order to effectively cooperate to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need and ensure that their collaborative efforts adhere to the principles of neutrality, humanity, impartiality and independence;

6. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and humanitarian and development organizations to continue to assess and improve, together with other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, how innovation can be more systematically identified and integrated into humanitarian action in a sustainable manner and to promote the sharing of best practices and lessons learned on innovative tools, processes and approaches, including those from large-scale natural disasters, that could improve the effectiveness and quality of humanitarian response, and in this regard encourages all relevant stakeholders to continue to support the efforts of Member States, in particular developing countries, to strengthen their capacities, including through facilitating access to information and communication technologies;

7. *Welcomes* innovative practices that draw on the knowledge of people affected by humanitarian emergencies to develop locally sustainable solutions and to produce life-saving items locally, with minimal logistical and infrastructure implications;

8. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and, as appropriate, other relevant humanitarian actors to continue efforts to improve the humanitarian response to natural and man-made disasters and complex emergencies by further strengthening humanitarian response capacities at all levels, by continuing to strengthen the provision and coordination of humanitarian assistance at the global and field levels, including through existing cluster coordination mechanisms and in support of national authorities of the affected State, as appropriate, and by further enhancing efficiency, transparency, performance and accountability;

9. *Recognizes* the benefits of engagement and coordination with relevant humanitarian actors to the effectiveness of humanitarian response, and encourages the United Nations to continue to pursue efforts to strengthen partnerships at the global level with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, relevant humanitarian non-governmental organizations and other participants in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue strengthening the support provided to United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators and to United

Nations country teams, including by providing necessary training, identifying resources and improving the identification of and the selection process for United Nations resident/humanitarian coordinators, and enhancing their performance accountability;

11. *Calls upon* the Chair of the United Nations Development Group and the Emergency Relief Coordinator to continue enhancing their consultations before presenting final recommendations on the selection process for resident coordinators in countries likely to require significant humanitarian response operations;

12. *Requests* the United Nations to continue to strengthen its ability to recruit and deploy appropriately senior, skilled and experienced humanitarian staff quickly and flexibly, giving paramount consideration to the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, while paying due regard to gender equality and to recruiting on as wide a geographical basis as possible, and in this regard encourages the United Nations Development Group to strengthen the resident coordinator system, on which the humanitarian coordinator system is based, in order to ensure the full implementation of the management and accountability system of the Group and the resident coordinator system;

13. *Recognizes* that diversity of humanitarian staff brings value to humanitarian work and understanding of developing countries' contexts, and requests the Secretary-General to address further the insufficient diversity in geographical representation and gender balance in the composition of the humanitarian staff of the Secretariat and other United Nations humanitarian agencies, in particular regarding professional and high-level staff, and to report on measures taken in this regard in his annual report;

14. *Also recognizes* that accountability is an integral part of effective humanitarian assistance, and emphasizes the need for enhancing the accountability of humanitarian actors at all stages of humanitarian assistance;

15. *Reaffirms* the importance of implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,[3] reiterates the importance of strengthening the effectiveness of national and local preparedness in line with priority five of the Framework, notes the fourth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Geneva from 19 to 23 May 2013, and encourages States, the United Nations system and all stakeholders to continue to engage in the consultations on the successor to the Framework, culminating at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, to be held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015;

16. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian and development organizations to continue to build the capacity at all levels of government and within local organizations and communities to better prepare for hazards and respond to and recover from disasters;

17. *Calls upon* Member States and the international community to increase and commit adequate, timely, flexible and predictable resources for disaster risk reduction in order to build resilience, including through complementary humanitarian and development programming and by further strengthening national and local capacities to prevent, prepare for and respond to humanitarian emergencies, and furthermore encourages closer cooperation between national stakeholders and humanitarian and development actors in this regard;

18. *Encourages* the United Nations system, humanitarian organizations and development organizations to continue their efforts to mainstream preparedness,

early action and early recovery into their programming, acknowledges that preparedness, early action and early recovery should receive further funding, and in this regard encourages the provision of timely, flexible, predictable and adequate resources, including from both humanitarian and development budgets, as appropriate;

19. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and other relevant organizations to take further steps to provide a coordinated emergency response to the food and nutrition needs of affected populations, while aiming to ensure that such steps are supportive of national strategies and programmes aimed at improving food security;

20. *Expresses concern* about the challenges related to, inter alia, safe access to and use of fuel, firewood, alternative energy, water and sanitation, shelter and food and health-care services in humanitarian emergencies, and noting with appreciation initiatives at the national and international levels that promote effective cooperation in this regard;

21. *Encourages* the international community, including relevant United Nations organizations and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, to support efforts of Member States aimed at strengthening their capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters and to support efforts, as appropriate, to strengthen systems, especially early warning systems, for identifying and monitoring disaster risk, including vulnerability and natural hazards;

22. *Welcomes* the growing number of initiatives undertaken at the regional and national levels to promote the implementation of the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance, encourages Member States and, where applicable, regional organizations to take further steps to review and strengthen operational and legal frameworks for international disaster relief, taking into account the Guidelines, as appropriate, and welcomes the valuable support that national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies are providing to their Governments in this area, in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and other partners;

23. *Encourages* States to create an enabling environment for the capacity-building of local authorities and of national and local non-governmental and community-based organizations in order to ensure better preparedness in providing timely, effective and predictable humanitarian assistance, and encourages the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to provide support to such efforts, including, as appropriate, under the Common Framework for Preparedness of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the United Nations Development Group and the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, through the transfer of technology and expertise to developing countries and through support to programmes aimed at enhancing the coordination capacities of affected States;

24. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to provide emergency assistance in ways that are supportive of recovery and long-term development, where appropriate, including through prioritizing humanitarian tools that strengthen resilience, such as, but not limited to, cash transfers, local procurement of food and services and social safety nets;

25. *Encourages* Member States and relevant United Nations organizations to examine their own financing mechanisms in order to improve, where possible, fast

and flexible financing for preparedness, response and the transition from relief to recovery;

26. *Takes note* of the efforts of Member States, the United Nations system and the international community to strengthen preparedness and local, national and regional humanitarian response capacity, and calls upon the United Nations and relevant partners to continue support in this regard;

27. *Encourages* efforts to provide safe and enabling learning environments and quality education for all, especially for girls and boys, in humanitarian emergencies, including in order to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

28. *Encourages* the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to continue to work with Member States and relevant United Nations entities to facilitate the exchange of updated, accurate and reliable information, including through mutually comprehensible harmonized data, in order to ensure better assessment of needs in order to improve preparedness and humanitarian response;

29. *Calls upon* relevant United Nations organizations to support the improvement of the humanitarian programme cycle, in particular the development of strategic response plans and humanitarian needs overviews, including consolidated appeals processes, in consultation with the affected States in order to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian action, to meet the needs of people affected by humanitarian emergencies;

30. *Encourages* Member States to provide humanitarian funding based on, and in accordance with, the humanitarian appeals brought forward by the United Nations;

31. *Encourages* Member States and relevant United Nations organizations to explore innovative risk-sharing mechanisms and to base risk management funding on objective data;

32. *Requests* Member States, relevant humanitarian organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian actors to ensure that all aspects of humanitarian response, including disaster preparedness and needs assessments, take into account the specific humanitarian needs and vulnerabilities of all components of the affected population, in particular girls, boys, women, older persons and persons with disabilities, including in the design and implementation of disaster risk reduction, humanitarian and recovery programming and post-humanitarian emergency reconstruction, and in this regard encourages efforts to ensure gender mainstreaming, including in the analysis of allocations and programme implementation, and through greater use of the gender marker, and emphasizes the importance of full participation of, in particular, women and persons with disabilities in decision-making processes related to humanitarian response;

33. *Calls upon* United Nations humanitarian organizations, in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen the evidence base for humanitarian assistance by further developing common mechanisms to improve the quality, transparency and reliability of, and make further progress towards, common humanitarian needs assessments, including through improved collection, analysis and reporting of sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data and taking into account environmental impact, to assess their performance in assistance and to ensure the most effective use of humanitarian resources by those organizations;

34. *Calls upon* the United Nations and its humanitarian partners to enhance accountability to Member States, including affected States, and all other stakeholders and to further strengthen humanitarian response efforts, including by monitoring and evaluating the provision of their humanitarian assistance, incorporating lessons learned into programming and consulting with the affected populations so that their needs are appropriately assessed and effectively addressed;

35. *Calls upon* donors to provide adequate, timely, predictable and flexible resources based on and in proportion to assessed needs, including for underfunded and forgotten emergencies, to consider providing early and multi-year commitments to pooled humanitarian funds and to continue to support diverse humanitarian funding channels, encourages efforts to adhere to the Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship[6] and to improve burden-sharing among donors, and in this respect encourages the private sector, civil society and other relevant entities to make relevant contributions, complementary to those of other sources;

36. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to identify better ways of working to address the increasing capacity and resource gap, in order to effectively meet the needs of affected populations;

37. *Calls upon* Member States that are in a position to do so and development and humanitarian partners, in their efforts to provide flexible resources, to consider ways of better mainstreaming the need for preparedness and building resilience in the provision of humanitarian and development assistance, including reconstruction and rehabilitation, inter alia, with a view to ensuring smooth transition from relief to development;

38. *Encourages* humanitarian and development actors to pursue, where appropriate, common risk-management and resilience objectives, achievable through joint analysis, planning, programming and funding;

39. *Calls upon* all Member States that are in a position to do so to increase their voluntary contributions to humanitarian emergencies, and in this context reiterates that the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs should benefit from adequate and more predictable funding;

40. *Welcomes* the important achievements of the Central Emergency Response Fund in ensuring a more timely and predictable response to humanitarian emergencies, stresses the importance of continuing to improve the functioning of the Fund, and in this regard encourages the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to review and evaluate, where necessary, their partnership policies and practices in order to ensure the timely disbursement of funds from the Fund to implementing partners in order to ensure that resources are used in the most efficient, effective, accountable and transparent manner possible;

41. *Calls upon* all Member States, and invites the private sector and all concerned individuals and institutions, to consider increasing their voluntary contributions to the Central Emergency Response Fund, and emphasizes that contributions should be additional to current commitments to humanitarian programming and should not be to the detriment of resources made available for international cooperation for development;

[6] A/58/99-E/2003/94, annex II.

42. *Encourages* Member States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations humanitarian organizations, to ensure that the basic humanitarian needs of affected populations, including clean water, food, shelter, health, including sexual and reproductive health, education and protection, are addressed as components of humanitarian response, including through providing timely and adequate resources, while ensuring that their collaborative efforts fully adhere to humanitarian principles;

43. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations and humanitarian organizations to continue to work together to understand and address the different protection needs of affected populations, particularly the most vulnerable, in humanitarian crises and ensure that these needs are adequately integrated into preparedness, response and recovery efforts;

44. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all States and parties to an armed conflict to protect civilians in armed conflicts in accordance with international humanitarian law, and invites States to promote a culture of protection, taking into account the particular needs of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities;

45. *Also reaffirms* the obligations of all States and parties to an armed conflict, in accordance with international humanitarian law, to respect and protect humanitarian personnel, including medical personnel, facilities, transports and activities, which must not be attacked, and to ensure that the wounded and sick receive, to the fullest extent practicable and with the least possible delay, the medical care and attention required;

46. *Calls upon* States to adopt preventive measures and effective responses to acts of violence committed against civilian populations in armed conflicts and to ensure that those responsible are promptly brought to justice, in accordance with national law and their obligations under international law;

47. *Urges* all Member States to address gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies in a strengthened manner and to ensure that their laws and institutions are adequate to prevent, promptly investigate and prosecute gender-based violence, and calls upon States, the United Nations and all relevant humanitarian organizations to improve coordination, harmonize response and strengthen capacity, with a view to preventing and reducing such violence and ensuring that humanitarian relief is provided in a way that mitigates the risk of gender-based violence, and to ensure that support services to victims and survivors of such violence are given due priority, beginning in the earliest stages of emergency response;

48. *Recognizes* the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement [7] as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, encourages Member States and humanitarian agencies to continue to work together, in collaboration with host communities, in endeavours to provide a more predictable response to the needs of internally displaced persons, and in this regard calls for continued and enhanced international support, upon request, for the capacity-building efforts of States and encourages humanitarian organizations to improve coordination, including with development organizations, to better address the needs of internally displaced persons in support of Member States to promote durable solutions;

[7] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

49. *Calls upon* all States and parties in complex humanitarian emergencies, in particular in armed conflict and in post-conflict situations, in countries in which humanitarian personnel are operating, in conformity with the relevant provisions of international law and national laws, to cooperate fully with the United Nations and other humanitarian agencies and organizations and to ensure the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel, as well as the delivery of supplies and equipment, in order to allow such personnel to efficiently perform their task of assisting affected civilian populations, including refugees and internally displaced persons;

50. *Welcomes* the progress made towards further enhancing the security management system of the United Nations, and supports the approach taken by the Secretary-General to focus the efforts of the security management system on enabling the United Nations system to "stay and deliver" its most critical programmes even in high-risk environments by effectively managing the risks to which personnel are exposed, including in the provision of humanitarian assistance, and to adapt quickly to changes in local security conditions;

51. *Encourages* the United Nations and other relevant humanitarian actors to include, as part of their risk management strategy, the building of good relations and trust with national and local governments and to promote acceptance by local communities and all relevant actors in order to enable humanitarian assistance to be provided in accordance with humanitarian principles;

52. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on actions taken to enable the United Nations to continue to strengthen its ability to recruit and deploy staff quickly, effectively and flexibly, to procure emergency relief materials and services rapidly, cost-effectively and locally, where applicable, and to quickly disburse funds in order to support Governments and United Nations country teams in the coordination of international humanitarian assistance;

53. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Secretary-General to hold the first World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2016, aimed at sharing knowledge and best practices in the humanitarian field to improve the coordination, capacity and effectiveness of humanitarian response, requests the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to ensure an inclusive, consultative, transparent preparatory process, encourages Member States and stakeholders to participate in and contribute to the process and outcome of the Summit, and encourages the Secretary-General to further engage Member States regarding the process and outcome of the Summit;

54. *Encourages* Member States to give appropriate consideration in the discussion on the post-2015 development agenda to disaster risk reduction, including building resilience and national and local preparedness and response capacity;

55. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2015, on progress made in strengthening the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations, including on the process and update on the World Humanitarian Summit, and to submit a report to the Assembly on the detailed use of the Central Emergency Response Fund.

70th plenary meeting
12 December 2014

General Assembly

Distr.: General
19 January 2015

Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 31

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 12 December 2014

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/69/L.39 and Add.1)*]

69/136. The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict: breaking the link between the illicit transaction of rough diamonds and armed conflict as a contribution to prevention and settlement of conflicts

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the trade in conflict diamonds continues to be a matter of serious international concern, which can be directly linked to the fuelling of armed conflict, the activities of rebel movements aimed at undermining or overthrowing legitimate Governments and the illicit traffic in and proliferation of armaments, especially small arms and light weapons,

Recognizing also the devastating impact of conflicts fuelled by the trade in conflict diamonds on the peace, safety and security of people in affected countries, and the systematic and gross human rights violations that have been perpetrated in such conflicts,

Noting the negative impact of such conflicts on regional stability and the obligations placed upon States by the Charter of the United Nations regarding the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recognizing that continued action to curb the trade in conflict diamonds is imperative,

Noting with appreciation that the Kimberley Process, as an international initiative led by the Governments of participant States, has pursued its deliberations on an inclusive basis involving concerned stakeholders, including producing, exporting and importing States, the diamond industry and civil society, as well as applicant States and international organizations,

Recalling that the elimination of conflict diamonds from legitimate trade is the primary objective of the Kimberley Process, and stressing the need to continue its activities in order to achieve this objective,

Welcoming the important contribution of the Kimberley Process, which was initiated by African diamond-producing countries, and calling for the consistent implementation of commitments made by Kimberley Process participant States and the diamond industry and civil society organizations, as observers,

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Acknowledging the successful role that the Kimberley Process has played in stemming the flow of conflict diamonds and the significant developmental impact it has had in improving the lives of people dependent on the trade in diamonds, and noting that the plenary meeting of the Process, in looking towards the future, committed to continue to ensure that the Process remains relevant as a credible tool in curbing the illegal flow of rough diamonds,

Acknowledging also that the diamond sector is an important catalyst for promoting economic and social development, which are necessary for poverty reduction and meeting the requirements of the Millennium Development Goals in many producing countries, particularly in developing countries,

Bearing in mind the positive benefits of the legitimate diamond trade to producing countries, and underlining the need for continued international action to prevent the problem of conflict diamonds from negatively affecting the trade in legitimate diamonds, which makes a critical contribution to the economies of the producing, exporting and importing States,

Noting that the vast majority of rough diamonds produced in the world are from legitimate sources,

Recalling the Charter and all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council related to conflict diamonds, and determined to contribute to and support the implementation of the measures provided for in those resolutions,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1459 (2003) of 28 January 2003, in which the Council strongly supported the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme[1] as a valuable contribution against trafficking in conflict diamonds,

Noting with satisfaction that the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme continues to have a positive impact in reducing the opportunity for conflict diamonds to play a role in fuelling armed conflict and helps to protect legitimate trade and ensure the effective implementation of the relevant resolutions on trade in conflict diamonds,

Acknowledging that lessons learned from the Kimberley Process may be useful for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission in its consideration of the countries included in its agenda, as appropriate,

Recalling its resolutions 55/56 of 1 December 2000, 56/263 of 13 March 2002, 57/302 of 15 April 2003, 58/290 of 14 April 2004, 59/144 of 15 December 2004, 60/182 of 20 December 2005, 61/28 of 4 December 2006, 62/11 of 26 November 2007, 63/134 of 11 December 2008, 64/109 of 11 December 2009, 65/137 of 16 December 2010, 66/252 of 25 January 2012, 67/135 of 18 December 2012 and 68/128 of 18 December 2013, in which it called for the development and implementation as well as a periodic review of proposals for a simple, effective and pragmatic international certification scheme for rough diamonds,

Welcoming, in this regard, the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme in such a way as not to impede the legitimate trade in diamonds or impose an undue burden on Governments or industry, particularly smaller producers, nor hinder the development of the diamond industry,

[1] See A/57/489.

Welcoming also the decision of the 54 Kimberley Process Participants, representing 81 countries, including the 28 States members of the European Union represented by the European Commission, to address the problem of conflict diamonds by participating in the Process and implementing the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme,

Noting the outcomes of the twelfth plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process, hosted in Guangzhou by China from 11 to 14 November 2014,

Welcoming the important contribution to fulfilling the purposes of the Kimberley Process that has been made and continues to be made by civil society organizations from across participant countries, and the diamond industry, in particular the World Diamond Council, which represents all aspects of the diamond industry in the Process, to assist international efforts to stop the trade in conflict diamonds,

Welcoming also the voluntary self-regulation initiatives for the diamond industry announced by the World Diamond Council, and recognizing that a system of such voluntary self-regulation contributes, as described in the Interlaken Declaration of 5 November 2002 on the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds,[1] to ensuring the effectiveness of national systems of internal control for rough diamonds,

Recognizing that State sovereignty should be fully respected and that the principles of equality, mutual benefits and consensus should be adhered to,

Recognizing also that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, which came into effect on 1 January 2003, will be credible only if all Participants have the requisite national legislation coupled with effective and credible internal systems of control designed to eliminate the presence of conflict diamonds in the chain of producing, exporting and importing rough diamonds within their own territories and across their borders, while taking into account that differences in production methods and trading practices, as well as differences in the institutional controls thereof, may require different approaches to meeting minimum standards,

Welcoming the efforts to improve the normative framework of the Kimberley Process through the elaboration of new rules and procedural norms to regulate the activities of its working bodies, Participants and observers and the streamlining of the procedures for preparation and adoption of the decisions and documents of the Process, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme,

1. *Reaffirms its strong and continuing support* for the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme[1] and the Kimberley Process as a whole;

2. *Recognizes* that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme helps to ensure the effective implementation of relevant resolutions of the Security Council containing sanctions on the trade in conflict diamonds and contributes to the prevention of future conflicts fuelled by diamonds, and calls for the full implementation of existing Council measures targeting the illicit trade in rough diamonds, particularly conflict diamonds which play a role in fuelling conflict;

3. *Also recognizes* the important contributions that the international efforts to address the problem of conflict diamonds, including the Kimberley Process, have made to the settlement of conflicts and the consolidation of peace in Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone;

4. *Notes* the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organization of 15 May 2003 granting a waiver with respect to the measures taken to implement the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, effective from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2006, the decision of the General Council of 17 November 2006 granting an extension of the waiver until 31 December 2012, and the decision of the General Council of 11 December 2012 granting an extension of the waiver until 31 December 2018;

5. *Takes note* of the report of the Chair of the Kimberley Process submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/128, [2] and congratulates the participating States and the European Union, the diamond industry and civil society organizations involved in the Process for contributing to the development, implementation and monitoring of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

6. *Acknowledges* the progress made by Kimberley Process working groups, Participants and observers during 2014 in fulfilling the objectives set by the Chair to strengthen implementation of the peer review system, increase the transparency and accuracy of statistics, promote research into the traceability of diamonds, promote inclusiveness by broadening the level of involvement by Governments, industry and civil society in the Process, foster a sense of ownership by Participants and observers, improve information and communication flows and enhance the capacity of the Process to respond to emerging challenges;

7. *Notes* that the annual reporting process on Kimberley Process Certification Scheme implementation is the main comprehensive and regular source of information on the implementation of the Process provided by Participants, and calls upon Participants to submit consistent and substantive annual reports in order to conform to this requirement;

8. *Expresses appreciation* to Australia, China, Guinea and Guyana for receiving review visits in 2014, welcomes the commitment of those countries to continuously open their certification systems to reviews and improvements, and calls upon other Participants to invite and receive review visits in accordance with the peer review system of the Kimberley Process;

9. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Kimberley Process to strengthen implementation, including the organization of a study tour hosted by Australia for representatives of Participants and observers in order to increase knowledge of best practices relating to the Process and develop a cadre of experts able to participate in review visits;

10. *Acknowledges* the efforts of the Kimberley Process to strengthen implementation and enforcement, and in particular to ensure the coordination of its actions in relation to the occurrence of fraudulent certificates, to apply vigilance and ensure the detection and reporting of shipments of suspicious origin and to facilitate the exchange of information in cases of infringement, encourages further collaboration among Participants and with relevant international organizations, including the World Customs Organization, in securing better import and export control and more transparency in the rough diamond supply chain, and welcomes the suggestion made by working bodies of the Process to consider relevant recommendations from the report of the Financial Action Task Force related to risks

[2] A/69/622, annex.

associated with the supply chain of rough diamonds, emphasizing that the Process already provides measures to mitigate against such vulnerabilities and risks;

11. *Stresses* that the widest possible participation in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is essential, encourages Member States to contribute to the work of the Kimberley Process by seeking membership, participating actively in the Certification Scheme and complying with its undertakings, and acknowledges the importance of the increased involvement of civil society organizations in the Process;

12. *Calls upon* the Participants of the Kimberley Process to continue to articulate and improve rules and procedures to further enhance the effectiveness of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and notes with satisfaction the systematization of the work of the Process with respect to developing transparent and uniform rules and procedures and improving the mechanism for consultations and coordination within the Process;

13. *Notes with appreciation* the willingness of Kimberley Process Participants and observers to support and provide technical assistance to those Participants experiencing temporary difficulties in complying with the requirements of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

14. *Recognizes* the impact of the Ebola epidemic on several Kimberley Process Participants, and welcomes the commitment of the Process to provide support and technical assistance to affected countries and diamond mining communities;

15. *Also recognizes* the importance of the Kimberley Process in promoting economic development, particularly in the artisanal and small-scale diamond mining sector, and encourages an increased focus on issues related to the implementation of the Washington Declaration on Integrating Development of Artisanal and Small Scale Diamond Mining with Kimberley Process Implementation of 2012, including through the work of the Diamond Development Initiative, within the framework of the Process;

16. *Welcomes* Security Council resolution 2153 (2014) of 29 April 2014, in which the Council terminated measures outlined in its resolution 1643 (2005) of 15 December 2005 to prevent the importation by any State of rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire and encouraged Côte d'Ivoire to host a Kimberley Process review visit within nine months of the date of the adoption of resolution 2153 (2014), notes that, in its 2014 final communiqué, the plenary meeting of the Process accepted the invitation of Côte d'Ivoire to host a review visit in early 2015, in line with the timing and obligations set out in resolution 2153 (2014), also notes that the review visit is planned for the beginning of March 2015, and encourages Côte d'Ivoire to continue to implement its transition strategy and post-embargo plan of action and to implement the recommendations in the review mission report;

17. *Encourages* the Friends of Côte d'Ivoire to continue to provide support to Côte d'Ivoire for the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, as well as for its continued participation in regional cooperation and law enforcement activities, such as the Mano River Basin initiative, as requested by the Security Council in its resolution 2153 (2014);

18. *Encourages* the Kimberley Process to continue active collaboration with the United Nations Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire, established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1584 (2005) of 1 February 2005, and with Côte d'Ivoire, aiming at the resumption of trade in rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire;

19. *Welcomes* the initiative of Kimberley Process Participants in West Africa to enhance their cooperation in Process implementation and policy harmonization by adopting a regional approach for the Mano River region, and encourages countries in the Mano River region, the technical team, the Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development project and other implementing partners to continue this work;

20. *Notes* that the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process reaffirmed its administrative decision on ensuring that diamonds from the Central African Republic are not introduced into the legitimate trade, as approved by written procedure on 11 July 2014, acknowledges progress made by the Central African Republic on the implementation of its workplan and road map for addressing issues of non-compliance with Kimberley Process Certification Scheme minimum requirements and strengthening its internal control system, and encourages the Central African Republic to continue working closely with the African Union, relevant United Nations bodies, in particular the Panel of Experts established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2127 (2013) of 5 December 2013, the international community and neighbouring countries on Certification Scheme compliance issues;

21. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Kimberley Process to strengthen implementation and technical cooperation, including in the export of a shipment of rough diamonds from the Central African Republic to South Africa to update the Central African Republic footprinting analysis and work on a fingerprinting analysis;

22. *Notes* the decision of the plenary meeting regarding the participation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the Kimberley Process, welcomes the special efforts made by China, as Chair of the Kimberley Process, in relation to this matter, and invites the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to continue its efforts towards full reintegration into the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme through the steps outlined in the Kimberley Process communiqué of 30 November 2012;[3]

23. *Notes with appreciation* the role played by the Kimberley Process Administrative Support Mechanism, with the World Diamond Council acting as host for 2014;

24. *Notes* the commitment of the Kimberley Process to continue dialogue on decision-making and on the definition of "conflict diamonds", in accordance with the final communiqué of the plenary meeting held in Johannesburg in November 2013;[4]

25. *Acknowledges* that the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process adopted amendments to the administrative decision on the participation of observers in the work of the Process, clarifying the nature of the participation of observers in the Process and the procedure for the participation of their representatives in the events and/or activities of the Process;

26. *Notes with appreciation* the continued support provided by the Antwerp World Diamond Centre for the further development of the Kimberley Process website, which has been enhanced significantly to make it a more efficient and effective tool;

[3] A/67/640, annex, enclosure.

[4] A/68/649, annex, enclosure.

27. *Reaffirms* the importance of the tripartite nature of the Kimberley Process, and welcomes the commitment of the plenary meeting to continue its constructive engagement with civil society in recognition of the important role that civil society plays in the Process;

28. *Encourages* further improvement in enforcement of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and notes the new efforts made to increase information-sharing and collaboration in enforcement;

29. *Acknowledges with great appreciation* the important contribution that China, as Chair of the Kimberley Process in 2014, has made to curbing the trade in conflict diamonds, welcomes the selection of Angola as Chair of the Kimberley Process for 2015, and takes note with appreciation of the commitments made by Angola to further consolidate the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

30. *Requests* the Chair of the Kimberley Process to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the Process;

31. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict".

70th plenary meeting
12 December 2014

General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 January 2015

Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 22 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 12 December 2014

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/69/L.28)*]

69/137. Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 66/214 of 22 December 2011, in which it decided to convene the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in 2014, as well as its resolutions 67/222 of 21 December 2012, 68/225 of 20 December 2013 and 68/270 of 23 April 2014,

1. *Expresses its profound gratitude* to the Government and the people of Austria for hosting the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in Vienna, from 3 to 5 November 2014, and for providing all the necessary support;

2. *Endorses* the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 adopted by the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, which are contained in annexes I and II, respectively, to the present resolution.

71st plenary meeting
12 December 2014

Annex I

Vienna Declaration

We, the Heads of State and Government and representatives of the States gathered here in Vienna from 3 to 5 November 2014 to participate in the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries,

Having adopted the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024,

Declare that:

1. We are strongly committed to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 to address in a holistic manner the special development needs and challenges of

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landlocked developing countries arising from their landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints;

2. We express our sincere appreciation for the constant efforts undertaken by the Government of Zambia in its capacity as Chair of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries;

3. We express our profound appreciation to the Government of Austria as well as the City of Vienna and the people of Austria for hosting the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.

Annex II

Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024

I. Introduction

1. Thirty-two landlocked developing countries situated in Africa, Asia, Europe and South America, with a population of about 440 million, face special challenges that are associated with their lack of direct territorial access to the sea and their remoteness and isolation from world markets. Their international trade depends on transit through other countries. Additional border crossings and long distances from major markets, coupled with cumbersome transit procedures and inadequate infrastructure, substantially increase the total expenses for transport and other transaction costs, which erodes the competitive edge of landlocked developing countries, reduces economic growth and subsequently negatively affects their capacity to promote sustained economic development, human and social progress and environmental sustainability. Landlockedness is a major contributor to the relatively high incidence of extreme poverty and structural constraints in landlocked developing countries. Landlocked developing countries, as a group, are among the poorest of developing countries, and many of them are also least developed countries, with limited capacities and dependence on a very limited number of commodities for their export earnings.

2. In most cases, the transit neighbours of landlocked developing countries are themselves developing countries, often with broadly similar economic structures and beset by similar scarcities of resources. The least developed transit countries are in an especially difficult situation. Furthermore, transit developing countries bear additional burdens, deriving from transit transport and its financial, infrastructural and social impacts. Transit developing countries are themselves in need of improvement of the technical and administrative arrangements of their transport and customs and administrative systems, to which their landlocked neighbours are expected to link.

3. The Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, adopted in 2003,[1] reflected the strong commitment of all actors to address the special development needs and challenges faced by landlocked developing countries and to

[1] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.

promote their full and more effective integration into the global economy through the implementation of specific actions in the priority areas of fundamental transit policy issues, infrastructure development and maintenance, international trade and trade facilitation, international support measures and implementation and review.

4. There has been increased visibility and recognition of landlocked developing countries and their special needs at the international level, including at the United Nations. The international community has recognized the need to address the special challenges of landlocked developing countries in the outcomes of the 2005 World Summit[2] and other high-level meetings on the Millennium Development Goals, as well as in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2012, entitled "The future we want".[3] Although there has been some progress in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action during the review period, there is a need for further global support for landlocked developing countries, including in the areas of financial and technical assistance, as they have a long way to go to fully benefit from globalization and to achieve sustained and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication, employment generation and structural transformation.

5. There is therefore an urgent need for an innovative, holistic and results-oriented 10-year programme of action, based on renewed and strengthened partnerships to accompany landlocked developing countries in harnessing benefits from international trade, structurally transforming their economies and achieving more inclusive and sustainable growth. The special challenges and needs of landlocked developing countries are recognized, and there is a need to give appropriate consideration to landlocked developing countries in the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda.

II. Review and assessment of the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action

6. Economic growth has been somewhat accelerated in landlocked developing countries: since the adoption of the Almaty Programme of Action, landlocked developing countries have achieved moderate economic growth. The gross domestic product growth rate for landlocked developing countries is estimated to have increased from 4.5 per cent in 2003 to 6.3 per cent in 2013.[4] However, there are wide disparities among landlocked developing countries, with many of them showing high vulnerability to external shocks. High economic growth has not translated into a speedy reduction of extreme poverty. Per capita gross domestic product in two thirds of landlocked developing countries is still well below $1,000.[5] Despite some progress in social development, half of the landlocked developing countries are still in the lowest ranks of the human development index, and there is still widespread poverty, high levels of food insecurity, high levels of child and maternal mortality and poor sanitation in many landlocked developing countries.

[2] Resolution 60/1.

[3] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[4] Estimates provided by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, using data from the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat.

[5] A/69/170, para. 10.

7. Landlocked developing countries and transit countries have initiated important policy reforms to address physical and non-physical aspects of transit transport. Landlocked developing countries have increased the harmonization of transport and transit policies, laws, procedures and practices with transit countries. A number of regional and subregional transit facilitation agreements have been concluded and adopted for implementation. Some landlocked developing countries and transit countries, through regional trade agreements, free trade areas and customs unions, have developed supportive institutional frameworks, such as transport and trade facilitation bodies or coordination committees, and road funds. Border facilities and procedures have been streamlined and harmonized, leading to increased efficiency and fewer delays. Yet there is a need to deepen the reforms, enhance efficiency and effectiveness and ensure that the achievements reached are sustained.

8. High transport and trade transaction costs remain a major stumbling block in the pursuit of landlocked developing countries to achieve their trade potential. Although the estimated time that landlocked developing countries take to import goods has decreased from 57 days in 2006 to 47 days in 2014 and to export from 49 to 42 days, that is still almost twice the time taken by transit countries.[6] The average cost of exporting a container for landlocked developing countries is estimated at $3,204, compared with $1,268 for transit countries, and $3,884 compared with $1,434 for importing a container.[6] The establishment of a secure, reliable and efficient transit transport system remains critical for landlocked developing countries to enable them to reduce transport costs and enhance the competitiveness of their exports to regional and global markets. Landlockedness, thus, has an enormous negative impact on the overall development of landlocked developing countries. It is estimated that the level of development in landlocked developing countries is, on average, 20 per cent lower than what it would be were they not landlocked.[7]

9. There have been progressive efforts to develop and upgrade road and rail infrastructure and to provide maintenance for the existing infrastructure at the national, subregional and regional levels. Dry ports and one-stop border crossings are being established in all regions. Despite such progress, the development of physical infrastructure is still inadequate, posing a major obstacle to the ability of landlocked developing countries to utilize their full trade potential. With regard to air transport, cargo airfreight has increased in some landlocked developing countries, and the number of registered flight carrier departures in landlocked developing countries as a group increased from an estimated 200,000 in 2003 to about 362,800 in 2013.[8] The major challenges faced by landlocked developing countries with regard to the air transport industry include the enormous resources required for infrastructure investment and the maintenance, rehabilitation and replacement of aged fleets. This limits the shipment by air of goods of high unit value or of a time-sensitive nature, such as documents, pharmaceuticals, fashion garments, electronic consumer goods and perishable agricultural and seafood products.

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[6] See World Bank, 2013, *Doing Business 2014: Understanding Regulations for Small and Medium-Size Enterprises*.

[7] "The development economics of landlockedness", study prepared by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, 2013.

[8] World Bank data.

10. Despite some progress, landlocked developing countries lag behind other developing countries in terms of their telecommunications infrastructure, including broadband Internet access, which can play a crucial role in increasing connectivity, boosting the competitiveness of enterprises and facilitating international trade.

11. Owing, in large part, to an increase in world commodity prices, total merchandise exports from landlocked developing countries grew from an estimated $44 billion in 2003 to $228 billion in 2013. Imports have also increased to some extent. Although the global share of merchandise exports from landlocked developing countries has doubled in the last decade, they still account for a very low proportion, about 1.2 per cent, of such exports.[9]

12. Furthermore, many landlocked developing countries rely heavily on a few mineral resources and low-value agricultural products for their exports to a limited number of markets,[10] making them highly vulnerable to commodity price and demand volatility. The problem is further exacerbated by their low productive capacities and structural weaknesses, which limit the adding of meaningful value to their exports and the diversification of their exports and markets.

13. Official development assistance disbursements to landlocked developing countries more than doubled between 2003 and 2012, from an estimated $12.2 billion to $25.9 billion.[11] Official development assistance accounts for more than 20 per cent of central Government expenditure in 16 landlocked developing countries.[8] Aid-for-trade disbursements to landlocked developing countries grew from an estimated $3.5 billion in 2006 to over $5.9 billion in 2012.[11] Aid for trade has helped to improve trade facilitation and trade-related infrastructure development.

14. While there has been some integration of the Almaty Programme of Action into the national development strategies of landlocked developing countries, there is a need for its better integration into development strategies at the national, regional and global levels.

15. While climate change was not part of the review of the Almaty Programme of Action, it remains true that landlocked developing countries are also vulnerable to climate change, which is exacerbating desertification and land degradation. Landlocked developing countries remain disproportionately affected by, inter alia, desertification, land degradation and drought as an estimated 54 per cent of their land is classified as dryland.[12] Of the 29 countries in which at least 20 per cent of the population is estimated to live on degraded land, 14 are landlocked developing countries.[13] Some landlocked developing countries are also affected by flooding, including glacial lake outburst floods. Landlocked developing countries also remain highly vulnerable to external economic shocks and to the multiple other challenges faced by the international community.

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[9] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, annual statistics on the values and shares of merchandise exports and imports, 1948–2013 (see http://unctadstat.unctad.org).

[10] See A/68/157.

[11] Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, International Development Statistics (see www.oecd.org/dac/stats/idsonline.htm).

[12] Calculated from Global Environment Outlook data, United Nations Environment Programme (see www.unep.org/geo).

[13] A/67/210, para. 8.

III. Renewed and strengthened partnerships for development

16. The present Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 is based on renewed and strengthened partnerships between landlocked developing countries and the transit countries and their development partners. Strengthened partnerships within the context of South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as strengthened partnerships with the relevant international and regional organizations and between public and private sector actors, are also essential.

17. Partnerships between landlocked developing countries and transit countries is mutually beneficial for the improvement and constant maintenance of their infrastructure connectivity and of technical and administrative arrangements in their transport, customs and logistic systems. Efficient transit transport systems, strong collaborative efforts in multimodal transport infrastructure development and interlinkage, the promotion of an enabling legal environment and institutional arrangements and strong national leadership on cooperative arrangements between landlocked developing countries and transit countries are also crucial for achieving structural transformation and sustainable economic growth and development. Transparency, good governance and efficient institutional arrangements in landlocked developing countries and transit countries should also play a very important role in promoting such partnerships. Collaboration must be promoted on the basis of the mutual interests of both landlocked and transit countries.

18. Renewed and strengthened partnerships with development partners will be crucial for the full and successful implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, given the immensity of the challenges faced by landlocked developing countries. The international community, including financial and development institutions, multilateral organizations and agencies and donor countries, is encouraged to provide financial and technical support, as appropriate, to advance the specific objectives listed herein. Regional and subregional cooperation or integration should also play an important role in successfully addressing the specific problems of landlocked developing countries.

19. Support from developing countries should take into full consideration the nature of South-South cooperation, in accordance with the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation.[14] Guided by the spirit of solidarity with landlocked developing countries, developing countries, consistent with their capabilities, will provide financial and technical support for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation.

20. The private sector and civil society are important stakeholders, whose contribution will be critical to the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, including through transparent, effective and accountable public-private partnerships.

[14] Resolution 64/222, annex.

IV. Objectives

21. The overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action is to address the special development needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries arising from landlockedness, remoteness and geographical constraints in a more coherent manner and thus to contribute to an enhanced rate of sustainable and inclusive growth, which can contribute to the eradication of poverty by moving towards the goal of ending extreme poverty. Particular attention should therefore be given in the period until 2024 to the development and expansion of efficient transit systems and transport development, enhancement of competitiveness, expansion of trade, structural transformation, regional cooperation and the promotion of inclusive economic growth and sustainable development to reduce poverty, build resilience, bridge economic and social gaps and ultimately help to transform landlocked countries into land-linked countries.

22. The specific goals and objectives are:

(*a*) To promote unfettered, efficient and cost-effective access to and from the sea by all means of transport, on the basis of the freedom of transit, and other related measures, in accordance with applicable rules of international law;

(*b*) To reduce trade transaction costs and transport costs and improve international trade services through simplification and standardization of rules and regulations, so as to increase the competitiveness of exports of landlocked developing countries and reduce the costs of imports, thereby contributing to the promotion of rapid and inclusive economic development;

(*c*) To develop adequate transit transport infrastructure networks and complete missing links connecting landlocked developing countries;

(*d*) To effectively implement bilateral, regional and international legal instruments and strengthen regional integration;

(*e*) To promote growth and increased participation in global trade, through structural transformation related to enhanced productive capacity development, value addition, diversification and reduction of dependency on commodities;

(*f*) To enhance and strengthen international support for landlocked developing countries to address the needs and challenges arising from landlockedness in order to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development.

V. Priorities for action

Priority 1: Fundamental transit policy issues.

Priority 2: Infrastructure development and maintenance:

- (*a*) Transport infrastructure;
- (*b*) Energy and information and communications technology infrastructure.

Priority 3: International trade and trade facilitation:

- (*a*) International trade;
- (*b*) Trade facilitation.

Priority 4: Regional integration and cooperation.

Priority 5: Structural economic transformation.

Priority 6: Means of implementation.

Priority 1: Fundamental transit policy issues

23. Freedom of transit and transit facilities play a key role in the overall development of landlocked developing countries. It is important for those countries to have access to and from the sea, in accordance with applicable international law, in order to fully integrate into the global trading system.

24. Harmonization, simplification and standardization of rules and documentation should be promoted, including the full and effective implementation of international conventions on transport and transit and bilateral, subregional and regional agreements. Bilateral provisions should be no less favourable than what is provided for in the international conventions standards and best practices. The Agreement on Trade Facilitation adopted by consensus at the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013, should further guide the work in this area. Cooperation on fundamental transit policies, laws and regulations between landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours is crucial for the effective and integrated solution to cross-border trade and transit transport problems. This cooperation should be promoted on the basis of the mutual interests of both landlocked and transit developing countries. Effective participation of key stakeholders, both public and private, is important to improve transit facilitation. It is important to promote free movement of people between landlocked developing countries and their transit neighbours through the development and implementation of simplified and harmonized visa systems for drivers involved in international transport (freight and passengers).

25. Specific objectives are:

(*a*) To reduce travel time along corridors, with the aim of allowing transit cargo to move a distance of 300 to 400 kilometres every 24 hours;

(*b*) To significantly reduce the time spent at land borders;

(*c*) To significantly improve intermodal connectivity, with the aim of ensuring efficient transfers from rail to road and vice versa and from port to rail and/or road and vice versa.

26. Actions by the landlocked developing countries and transit countries are:

(*a*) To endeavour to accede to and ratify in a timely fashion relevant international, regional and subregional conventions and other legal instruments related to transit transport and trade facilitation;

(*b*) To ensure effective implementation of international and regional conventions and bilateral agreements on transit transport and trade facilitation, as applicable, also with a view to reducing transport prices and time;

(*c*) To enhance coordination and cooperation of national agencies responsible for border and customs controls and procedures between them and with the respective agencies in transit countries. In this regard, transit countries are encouraged to share information with landlocked developing countries regarding any change in regulations and procedures governing transit policies as early as possible before their entry into force, in order to enable traders and other interested parties to become acquainted with them;

(*d*) To create an effective bilateral or regional mechanism, as appropriate, to address challenges and bottlenecks in the implementation of bilateral, regional or multilateral agreements and to avoid maintaining, seeking or adopting bilateral or

regional arrangements establishing quotas or other quantitative restrictions to international transit;

(*e*) To promote the simplification, transparency and harmonization of legal and administrative regulations and requirements related to transit systems by all modes of transit transport, including border crossings, consular services, customs procedures and removal of internal checkpoints;

(*f*) To develop effective logistics systems by aligning incentives for efficient transport and transit operations, promoting competition and phasing out anti-competitive practices such as cartels and queuing systems wherever possible;

(*g*) To promote the involvement of road, rail and inland waterway transport business associations in public-private partnership projects, exchange knowledge and implement transit cooperation initiatives and practices that have worked well in various regions around the world;

(*h*) To collaborate on exchanging trade and transport data with a view to conducting cross-border transactions faster and more efficiently;

(*i*) All landlocked developing countries should formulate national transit policies and establish appropriate national mechanisms with the participation of all relevant stakeholders.

27. Actions by development partners are:

(*a*) To support landlocked and transit developing countries in the implementation of international conventions and agreements relating to transit facilitation and initiatives that promote transit cooperation, reduce transit costs and establish smooth logistic arrangements;

(*b*) To assist landlocked and transit developing countries to establish multilateral sustainable and efficient transit transport regimes involving public and private stakeholders and to encourage and support the sharing of best practices related to experiences, policies and initiatives;

(*c*) To encourage regional and subregional organizations to assist with technical and financial support to the landlocked developing countries and transit countries to implement initiatives that promote transit cooperation.

Priority 2: Infrastructure development and maintenance

28. Infrastructure development plays a key role in reducing the cost of development for landlocked developing countries. The development and maintenance of transit transport infrastructure, information and communications technology and energy infrastructure are crucial for landlocked developing countries in order to reduce high trading costs, improve their competitiveness and become fully integrated in the global market.

(a) Transport infrastructure

29. Despite improvement in transport infrastructure in landlocked developing countries, poor quality and gaps in physical infrastructure are still major obstacles to developing viable and predictable transit transport systems. There is inadequate physical infrastructure in rail transport, road transport, dry ports, inland waterways, pipelines and air transport in many landlocked developing countries, as well as few harmonized rules and procedures and limited cross-border investment and private-sector participation. The physical links of landlocked developing countries to

regional transport infrastructure networks fall well short of expectations. Landlocked developing countries have a lower logistics performance than other countries in the area of transport-related infrastructure. Missing links need to be addressed urgently, and roads, railways and inland waterways need to be upgraded to a level that can establish seamless and efficient transport infrastructure networks within the countries and across their borders. The improvement and maintenance of existing facilities is crucial. With regard to multimodal transport, railways are important for the landlocked developing countries whose exports are usually bulky primary commodities. Railway transport should be promoted where its use is viable and rail networks already exist.

30. The magnitude of the required resources to invest in infrastructure development and maintenance remains a major challenge. It requires forging international, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation on infrastructure projects, allocating more from national budgets, effectively deploying international development assistance and multilateral financing in the development and maintenance of infrastructure and strengthening the role of the private sector. At the same time, it also requires a substantial investment in capacity-building and legal, regulatory and policy reform to create an environment supportive of greater public and private investments in infrastructure. It is important to help landlocked developing countries to develop the capacity to prepare bankable, large-scale infrastructure projects and to explore innovative financing mechanisms for those projects, including public-private partnerships, where appropriate.

31. Specific objectives are:

(*a*) To significantly increase the quality of roads, including increasing the share of paved roads, by nationally appropriate standards;

(*b*) To expand and upgrade the railway infrastructure in landlocked developing countries, where applicable;

(*c*) To complete missing links in the regional road and railway transit transport networks.

32. Actions by landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries are:

(*a*) To develop and implement comprehensive national policies for infrastructure development and maintenance, encompassing all modes of transportation, and to ensure that they are well coordinated with the transit countries in the areas where transit infrastructures intersect;

(*b*) To collaborate to promote sustainable and resilient transit systems through, inter alia, regular upgrading and maintenance, development of corridors along transit highways, developing border-crossing mechanisms, including one-stop border crossings, as appropriate, and promoting economies of scale for transport systems through intermodal transport development, dry ports or inland container depots, trans-shipment facilities and similar logistic hubs;

(*c*) To work towards the harmonization of gauges to facilitate regional connectivity, where feasible, the development of reloading capacities, the expansion of training programmes and inter-railway staff exchange programmes;

(*d*) To promote multilateral and regional permit systems for road transport and to endeavour to implement permit-free bilateral and transit road transport and the expansion of a multilateral quota system among landlocked developing countries and transit countries;

(*e*) To endeavour, at the bilateral, subregional and regional levels, to gradually liberalize road transport services, taking into account specific circumstances in landlocked and transit developing countries;

(*f*) To encourage the development of international logistic hubs;

(*g*) To develop the necessary policies and regulatory frameworks to promote private sector involvement in infrastructure development and promote an enabling environment to attract foreign direct investment;

(*h*) To promote public-private partnerships for the development and maintenance of transport infrastructure and their sustainability;

(*i*) To develop inland transport networks, including ancillary infrastructure, such as all-weather road, rail and riverside support infrastructures that ensure road and rail safety and involve local businesses in those services along highways and railway networks, thereby creating development corridors along transit highways and railroads.

33. Actions by development partners are:

(*a*) To support efforts by landlocked developing countries in the field of infrastructure development and maintenance and support landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries in sharing experiences on transit transport development;

(*b*) To encourage multilateral and regional development banks to provide more support to landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries for investment in transport development, in accordance with their respective mandates;

(*c*) To continue assisting landlocked developing countries in the completion of missing links in railroads and road systems, as appropriate.

(b) Energy and information and communications technology infrastructure

34. Energy infrastructure and access to affordable, reliable and renewable energy and related technologies, on mutually agreed terms, are critically important for modernizing information and communications technology and transit systems, reducing delays and enhancing productive capacity to achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development. The importance of the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative is stressed. In this context, regional efforts, including the creation of networks of regional renewable energy and energy efficiency centres, will be important and need support.

35. Information and communications technology can contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth by: increasing productivity across all sectors; facilitating market expansion beyond borders to take advantage of economies of scale; and lowering costs and facilitating access to services, including access to broadband infrastructure and information via global media such as the Internet, thus contributing to increased participation in governance, accountability and transparency. However, many landlocked developing countries face severe challenges in keeping up with the necessary infrastructure deployment and concomitant evolution of policy frameworks. Broadband costs, as a share of gross national income, are much higher in landlocked developing countries than in coastal countries that are located close to submarine communications cables. Because of their small market sizes, the lack of a regionally harmonized regulatory environment is also a serious hindrance to cheaper

information and communications technology services and greater geographical coverage.

36. Specific objectives are:

(*a*) To expand and upgrade, as appropriate, infrastructure for supply, transmission and distribution of modern and renewable energy services in rural and urban areas;

(*b*) All landlocked developing countries should make broadband policy universal;

(*c*) To promote open and affordable access to the Internet for all;

(*d*) Landlocked developing countries should actively engage to address the digital divide.

37. Actions by landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries are:

(*a*) To enhance their collaboration in promoting cross-border energy trade and energy transit through transmission lines to third countries;

(*b*) Landlocked developing countries should develop national energy policies to promote modern, reliable and renewable energy, with a view to significantly enhancing capacities in production, trade and distribution, with the aim of ensuring access to energy for all and the transformation of their economies;

(*c*) To work together to modernize transit and transport facilities and customs and other border facilities by fully utilizing the capabilities of information and communications technologies;

(*d*) To further improve and harmonize legal and regulatory frameworks;

(*e*) Landlocked developing countries should develop a national broadband policy with a view to improving access to international high-capacity fibre-optic cables and high-bandwidth backbone networks;

(*f*) Landlocked developing countries should strive to develop their service sectors through the development of information and communications technology infrastructures and their integration into all relevant areas to promote competitiveness, innovation and inclusion and in order to reduce transit time and cost and modernize their transit and customs facilities;

(*g*) To promote digital bridges to interconnect national backbones so that countries far from the sea cables also have access to affordable broadband and are able to expand the telecommunications and related services sector in order to facilitate affordable, accessible and high-quality telecommunications services.

38. Actions by development partners are:

(*a*) To support efforts by landlocked developing countries to develop their energy and information and communications technology sectors;

(*b*) To promote energy-efficient investment in landlocked developing countries and facilitate the green economic transformation;

(*c*) To support landlocked developing countries in promoting their national broadband policy and developing necessary broadband infrastructure;

(*d*) To provide capacity-building to landlocked developing countries for the use of modern and affordable communications technology;

(*e*) To continue to support efforts of landlocked developing countries with the respective transit developing countries to facilitate access to information and communications technologies and the transfer of relevant skills, knowledge and

technology, on mutually agreed terms, for the development, maintenance and sustainability of infrastructure.

Priority 3: International trade and trade facilitation

(a) International trade

39. Greater integration of landlocked developing countries into world trade and global value chains is vital for increasing their competitiveness and ensuring their economic development. Exporting goods produced in landlocked developing countries incurs additional transport costs, which may decrease competitiveness and reduce revenue for producers from those countries. The export structure of many landlocked developing countries continues to be increasingly characterized by a reliance on the export of a limited number of products, in particular agricultural products and mineral resources. Priority should be given to policies and measures, with the support of development partners, to diversify the production and export structures of landlocked developing countries and to enhance their productivity and competitiveness in order to take full advantage of the multilateral trading system.

40. With the growing interlinkages between world trade, investment and production, global value chains account for a rising share of international trade. Landlocked developing countries have not been able to fully participate in regional or global value chains. Linking into global value chains presents an opportunity for landlocked developing countries to achieve greater integration within world markets, increase their competitiveness and become important links in production and distribution chains.

41. Services are important enablers of trade in goods and effective participation in international trade and global value chains. Efficient services enhance productivity, reduce the cost of doing business and promote job creation. Landlocked developing countries should be supported so as to increase the share of services in their economies and exports, including through enabling policies.

42. One of the main causes of marginalization of landlocked developing countries in the international trading system is high trade transaction costs. The importance of enhanced and predictable access to all markets for the exports of developing countries, including landlocked developing countries, was recognized in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development.[15] In accordance with the commitments contained in the Ministerial Declaration of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization[16] and the rules of the World Trade Organization, full attention should be given in the Doha Development Round of trade negotiations to the needs and interests of developing countries, including landlocked and transit developing countries. Given the increasing growth in South-South trade, other developing countries could be important export destinations for the products of landlocked developing countries and sources of critical foreign direct investment.

43. Trade ministers at the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013, agreed by consensus on a package of declarations and instruments, including the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, which clarifies and improves articles V, VIII and X of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade of 1994, with a view to further expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit. The Agreement on Trade Facilitation and its timely implementation in the context of the Bali package are important for the facilitation of trade for landlocked developing countries. The Agreement includes important provisions on

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[15] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[16] See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

technical assistance and capacity-building to help landlocked developing countries to implement it effectively.

44. Specific objectives are:

(*a*) To significantly increase the participation of landlocked developing countries in global trade, with a focus on substantially increasing exports;

(*b*) To significantly increase the value added and manufactured component, as appropriate, of the exports of landlocked developing countries, with the objective of substantially diversifying their markets and products;

(*c*) To further strengthen economic and financial ties between landlocked developing countries and other countries in the same region so as to gradually and consistently increase the landlocked developing countries' share in intraregional trade;

(*d*) To invite Member States to consider the specific needs and challenges of landlocked developing countries in all international trade negotiations.

45. Actions by landlocked developing countries include:

(*a*) To develop a national trade strategy based on comparative advantages and regional and global opportunities;

(*b*) To integrate trade policies into national development strategies;

(*c*) To promote a better business environment so as to assist national firms to integrate into regional and global value chains;

(*d*) To promote policies to help national firms, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, to participate more fully in international trade;

(*e*) To fully leverage bilateral and regional preferential trading arrangements with a view to broadening regional and global integration;

(*f*) To implement policies and measures that will significantly increase economic and export diversification and value added.

46. Actions by transit developing countries include:

(*a*) To promote investment in landlocked developing countries, with the aim of promoting their productive and trading capacity and supporting their participation in regional trade arrangements;

(*b*) To improve market access for products originating from landlocked developing countries, without arbitrary or unjustified non-tariff barriers that are not in conformity with the rules of the World Trade Organization;

(*c*) Transit countries and landlocked developing countries should carry out studies on logistical competitiveness and logistical costs based on internationally recognized methodologies.

47. Actions by development partners include:

(*a*) To support efforts by landlocked developing countries to diversify exports, integrate into global and regional value chains and effectively participate in multilateral trade negotiations;

(*b*) To address non-tariff measures and reduce or eliminate arbitrary or unjustified non-tariff barriers, that is, those that are not in conformity with the rules of the World Trade Organization;

(*c*) Landlocked developing countries and development partners should promote better integration of small and medium-sized enterprises within international trade by, when appropriate, strengthening institutions that support trade, fostering trade

competitiveness, building spaces for private-public dialogue, fostering technical and vocational education and training and capacity-building and creating market linkages through business-to-business platforms;

(*d*) To promote the diffusion and uptake of appropriate and environmentally sound technologies on mutually agreed terms and conditions, including through investment or cooperation projects to promote economic diversification and sustainable development, as appropriate;

(*e*) To offer appropriate technical assistance and capacity-building to landlocked developing countries to complete the process of their accession to the World Trade Organization, fulfil their commitments and integrate into the multilateral trading system;

(*f*) To continue to provide aid for trade to landlocked developing countries, consistent with World Trade Organization guidelines.

(b) Trade facilitation

48. Non-physical barriers, delays and inefficiencies associated with border crossings and ports, including customs procedures and documentation requirements, uncertainty in logistical services, weak institutions and widespread lack of human and productive capacities, continue to make transport costs high. They are at the core of the continued marginalization of many landlocked developing countries. Further streamlining and harmonization of customs and transit procedures and formalities and transparent and efficient border management and coordination of agencies involved in border clearance should have a concrete and direct impact on reducing the cost of doing trade and stimulating faster and competitive trade for landlocked developing countries. Such improved trade facilitation would help landlocked developing countries to enhance the competitiveness of their export products and services.

49. In many landlocked developing countries, human and institutional capacities are not adequate in a number of areas, including in customs and border entities, transit transport agencies, the trade negotiation process and the implementation of transit and trade facilitation agreements, including the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization, leading to a lack of effective implementation. Technical assistance and the improvement of trade- and transit-related logistics are crucial in enabling landlocked developing countries to fully participate in and benefit from multilateral trade negotiations, effectively implement policies and regulations aimed at facilitating transport and trade and diversify their export base.

50. Specific objectives are:

(*a*) To significantly simplify and streamline border crossing procedures with the aim of reducing port and border delays;

(*b*) To improve transit facilities and their efficiency with the aim of reducing transaction costs;

(*c*) To ensure that all transit regulations, formalities and procedures for traffic in transit are published and updated in accordance with the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization.

51. Actions by landlocked developing countries include:

(*a*) To establish or strengthen, as appropriate, national committees on trade facilitation, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector;

(*b*) To scale up and implement trade facilitation initiatives such as single-stop inspections, single windows for documentation, electronic payment and transparency and modernization of border posts and customs services, among others;

(*c*) To effectively implement integrated border management systems and strive to establish one-stop border posts, where appropriate, with neighbouring landlocked or transit developing countries to allow for the joint processing of legal and regulatory requirements, with a view to reducing clearance times at borders, while fully utilizing the tools for trade facilitation developed by international organizations to build national capacity;

(*d*) To ensure full and inclusive representation of the private sector, including public-private partnerships and transport business associations, in trade facilitation initiatives and policy, and to develop the necessary policies and regulatory framework to promote private sector involvement.

52. Actions by transit developing countries include:

(*a*) To ensure that trade facilitation initiatives, including the Agreement on Trade Facilitation of the World Trade Organization, are developed and implemented together with landlocked developing countries in all relevant areas;

(*b*) To undertake further harmonization, simplification and standardization of rules, documentation requirements and border crossing and customs procedures; to enhance collaboration and cooperation among various customs and border-crossing agencies across borders; to promote the use of electronic (e-transaction) processes, the pre-arrival submission of customs declarations, risk management inspection systems and authorized economic operator systems; to improve transparency, predictability and consistency in customs activities; and to establish one-stop border posts, as appropriate, joint customs controls and inspection at border sites and other forms of integrated border management at borders with landlocked developing countries;

(*c*) Sharing best practices in customs, border and corridor management and in the implementation of trade facilitation policies should be encouraged at the global, regional, subregional and South-South levels, including in the private sector;

(*d*) To fully utilize the tools for trade facilitation developed by international organizations to build national capacity and ensure secure and reliable transport across borders by, inter alia, effectively implementing existing international standards and best practices for customs transit and safety and security of transport chains;

(*e*) To ensure transparency in border crossings, customs and transit transport rules, regulations, fees and charges and to accord non-discriminatory treatment so that the freedom of transit of goods is guaranteed to landlocked developing countries.

53. Actions by development partners include:

(*a*) To support landlocked and transit developing countries in the area of trade facilitation, in accordance with the Agreement on Trade Facilitation, which was agreed upon by consensus in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013, at the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, and to encourage international organizations to help landlocked developing countries to assess their needs in implementing that Agreement and relevant trade facilitation measures;

(*b*) To support activities, including trade facilitation, aimed at simplifying, streamlining, standardizing and harmonizing import, export and customs procedures;

(*c*) To encourage the sharing of information on experiences and best practices related to trade facilitation with a view to creating an environment that allows for the implementation of multi-country customs transit guarantee regimes through the implementation of either international transit agreements or functional regional agreements;

(*d*) To support capacity-building, including training programmes, in the areas of customs, border clearance and transport;

(*e*) To encourage regional aid for trade so as to promote trade integration among landlocked developing countries and transit countries.

Priority 4: Regional integration and cooperation

54. Close cooperation with transit countries is a sine qua non for improved connectivity in transport, energy and information and communications technology. Infrastructure, trade and regulatory policies, together with political stability of neighbouring countries, have significant repercussions for the external trade of landlocked developing countries. The costs of reaching international markets for landlocked developing countries do not depend only on their geography, policies, infrastructure and administration procedures, but also on those of neighbouring countries. Thus, regional integration and coherent and harmonized regional policies provide an opportunity to improve transit transport connectivity and ensure greater intraregional trade, common regulatory policies, border agency cooperation and harmonized customs procedures to expand regional markets.

55. There is a need to promote meaningful regional integration to encompass cooperation among countries in a broader range of areas than just trade and trade facilitation, including investment, research and development and policies aimed at accelerating regional industrial development and regional connectivity. This approach is aimed at fostering structural change and economic growth in landlocked developing countries as a goal, and also as a means of collectively linking regions to global markets. This would enhance competitiveness and help to maximize benefits from globalization. Documentation and the sharing and dissemination of best practices is important to allow cooperating partners to benefit from each other's experience.

56. Actions by landlocked developing countries include:

(*a*) To promote regional integration by strengthening regional trade, transport, communications and energy networks;

(*b*) To promote harmonization of regional policies so as to strengthen regional synergy, competitiveness and regional value chains;

(*c*) To strengthen participation of landlocked developing countries in bilateral and regional integration frameworks.

57. Actions by transit developing countries include their contribution to deepening regional integration through the coherent development of regional infrastructure, trade facilitation measures and regional trade agreements, including the establishment of effective and efficient customs guarantee systems to help landlocked developing countries to overcome constraints resulting from their landlockedness.

58. Actions by development partners include:

(*a*) To support efforts made by landlocked developing countries and their transit partners to deepen regional integration through the development and implementation of key regional transport projects and regional transport agreements for facilitating the cross-border movement of goods and passengers;

(*b*) To support ongoing regional integration processes involving landlocked developing countries;

(*c*) To share best practices in promoting regional integration.

Priority 5: Structural economic transformation

59. Many landlocked developing countries remain reliant on a few export commodities, which often have low value addition. In order for landlocked developing countries to fully utilize their export and trade potential, it is important to undertake measures that could promote structural economic transformation capable of reducing the negative impact of

their geographical disadvantages and external shocks, creating jobs and ultimately leading to poverty eradication and inclusive and sustainable growth and development. Increased value addition and economic diversification are key to such structural economic transformation. Institutional capacity-building and human resources development are equally important for landlocked developing countries.

60. Improving the manufacturing capacity of landlocked developing countries, including their contribution to regional and global value chains, can achieve the triple objective of creating better-paying jobs, increasing revenue and reducing the bulk of their primary exports. Higher-value and low-bulk exports are particularly crucial for landlocked developing countries. In this context, it is important to place proper emphasis on the development of manufacturing, agriculture and the services sector, including finance, information and communications technologies and tourism, as appropriate to national circumstances. Tourism can play an important role in building the economic sector, providing employment and generating foreign exchange.

61. Science, technology and innovation play a critical role in achieving structural economic transformation, productive capacity development and value addition. Conducive national policies, international support and foreign direct investment are necessary to facilitate access to science, technology and innovation, and landlocked developing countries should promote investment in science, technology and innovation for sustainable development.

62. The private sector contributes to economic growth and poverty eradication through the building of productive capacity, creation of decent jobs, promotion of innovation, economic diversification and competition. In landlocked developing countries, the private sector is actively involved in activities related to transit and trade facilitation, including as traders, freight forwarders, insurance providers and transporters, and the sector is a source of tax revenue and domestic investment and a partner for foreign direct investment. Public-private partnerships can play an important role in infrastructure development.

63. Specific objectives are:

(*a*) To increase value addition in the manufacturing and agricultural sectors, with the aim of achieving inclusive growth and sustainable development;

(*b*) To increase economic and export diversification;

(*c*) To promote service-based growth, including from tourism, with a view to increasing its contribution to the national economy;

(*d*) To encourage the inflow of foreign direct investment in high-value added sectors.

64. Actions by landlocked developing countries include:

(*a*) To develop a structural transformation strategy aimed at improving science, technology and innovation, export diversification, productivity, efficiency and competitiveness in the agriculture, manufacturing and service sectors, including tourism;

(*b*) To encourage innovative solutions, entrepreneurship and the use of modern, cost-effective and locally adapted technologies, with an emphasis on sectors such as agriculture, transport, information and communications, finance, energy, health, water and sanitation and education, as well as the development of effective public and private partnerships;

(*c*) To build a critical mass of viable and competitive productive capacity in manufacturing, agriculture and services;

(*d*) To promote the attraction of more diversified foreign direct investment through the creation of a conducive environment, with the aim of enhancing value addition,

productive capacity, transit transport infrastructure and completion of missing links connecting landlocked developing countries within the regional network;

(*e*) To undertake measures to modernize the services sector by strengthening links between and among financial intermediaries, creative industries and business and legal and technical services;

(*f*) To create industrial clusters, such as export-processing zones and regional centres of excellence, with the aim of fostering knowledge networks and connectedness among companies;

(*g*) To prioritize private sector development, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises;

(*h*) To develop an industrial policy that takes into account the need for improved access to financial resources, development of appropriate human capacity and investment in supportive economic infrastructure as a way to further strengthen the private sector;

(*i*) To strengthen, as appropriate, an effective competition policy that supports business activity and further consolidates a supportive legal and regulatory framework, and to create macroeconomic conditions and systems that can facilitate the development of the private sector;

(*j*) To utilize the International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries for sharing experiences, know-how, research and other resources on issues related to trade, transit, transport and capacity-building among landlocked developing countries. Landlocked developing countries that have not yet done so should ratify the Multilateral Agreement for the Establishment of an International Think Tank for Landlocked Developing Countries.

65. Actions by development partners include:

(*a*) To support the efforts of landlocked developing countries to improve their productive capacities and create economic diversification;

(*b*) To contribute to the efforts of landlocked developing countries to share innovative technologies, scientific knowledge and technical know-how and best practices;

(*c*) To support the efforts of landlocked developing countries to increase the value addition of their agricultural and industrial output;

(*d*) To support landlocked developing countries in building institutional and human capacities aimed at improving their ability to attract foreign direct investment in high-value added sectors and to enhance negotiation skills for bringing in responsible investment;

(*e*) To support landlocked developing countries to enable them to pursue the effective partnerships necessary for capacity-building, sustainability and quality enhancement, as well as for sectoral development, including the development of tourism;

(*f*) To support landlocked developing countries in building resilience, developing capacity to respond effectively to external shocks and addressing their specific supply-side constraints.

Priority 6: Means of implementation

66. The development and progress of any country is the primary responsibility of that country itself. Landlocked developing countries have made efforts to mobilize domestic resources for the development of infrastructure and transit facilities, as well as for overall socioeconomic development. However, lack of adequate financial resources and capacity constraints are some of the biggest challenges facing landlocked developing countries in their efforts to achieve sustained growth and sustainable development. Landlocked

developing countries and their transit neighbours need to effectively mobilize adequate domestic and external resources for the effective implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action.

67. The support of development partners is needed to complement the efforts of landlocked developing countries to establish and maintain effective transit transport systems, integration into the world economy, structural transformation of their economies and enhancement of their productive capacities. Development partners are therefore encouraged to provide targeted technical and financial support, as appropriate, towards the implementation of the specific actions listed in the Vienna Programme of Action. Development partners should also encourage private sector investment in landlocked developing countries that are implementing the Programme of Action.

68. Official development assistance flows remain a major source of external financing for many landlocked developing countries. It is important to urgently fulfil existing official development assistance commitments, and such assistance to landlocked developing countries should fully take into account the specific situation of each country. Development partners and multilateral organizations have a crucial role to play in supporting the efforts of landlocked developing countries to achieve sustainable development and the eradication of poverty.

69. Aid for trade plays a key role in assisting capacity-building for landlocked developing countries on the formulation of trade policies, the implementation of trade facilitation measures and the development of trade-related infrastructure, with a view to increasing the competitiveness of their products in export markets. Aid for trade, in combination with complementary policies, has contributed to lower trade costs, with additional infrastructure, better border institutions and regulatory procedures and enhanced capacities. Aid for trade, along with the commitment of landlocked developing countries to necessary reforms, is also important in linking to or advancing the position of landlocked developing countries in the global and regional value chains.

70. South-South cooperation is not a substitute for but rather a complement to North-South cooperation. South-South and triangular cooperation also have a role to play in increasing the growth and development of landlocked developing countries, as well as transit developing countries, through their contribution, as appropriate, to the sharing of best practices, human and productive capacity-building, financial and technical assistance and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms.

71. The implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action would also require individual and concerted efforts by the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, relevant international organizations, such as the World Bank, the regional development banks, the World Trade Organization, the World Customs Organization, the common funds for commodities, regional economic integration organizations and other relevant regional and subregional organizations. These organizations are invited to give priority to requests for technical assistance and capacity-building support from landlocked developing countries in the implementation of the Programme of Action in a well-coordinated and coherent manner, within their respective mandates.

72. The private sector, including through foreign direct investment, also has a critical role to play in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, for example through building and strengthening productive capacity, export growth, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, diffusion of productive know-how, managerial skill and capital, creation of wealth, the opening up of new markets for high-value added products and services and employment generation. Foreign direct investment can also play a key role in building the infrastructure that underpins economic activities.

VI. Implementation, follow-up and review

73. Implementation, follow-up and review should be undertaken at the national, subregional, regional and global levels. Follow-up and review should be a continuous process aimed at reinforcing partnerships and mutual accountability at all levels and by all actors.

74. At the national level, Governments are invited to mainstream the Vienna Programme of Action into their national and sectoral development strategies for its effective implementation. Landlocked developing countries and transit developing countries are encouraged to establish national coordination mechanisms, where appropriate. Monitoring and review should involve all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate.

75. At the subregional and regional levels, monitoring and review should be undertaken through existing intergovernmental processes. Regional and subregional organizations, including regional economic communities and regional development banks, are invited to mainstream the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action into their relevant programmes, in coordination with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, within their existing mandates, and the regional commissions. The regional commissions are encouraged to submit analytical reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action. The relevant regional and subregional organizations and the private sector should be actively involved in the sessions of the regional commissions in that regard.

76. At the global level, the General Assembly should continue to undertake reviews of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action through reports of the Secretary-General. The governing bodies of organizations in the United Nations system are invited to mainstream the implementation of the Programme of Action into their programme of work and to conduct sectoral and thematic reviews of the Programme of Action, as appropriate. The private sector should be involved in the reviews at the global level.

77. In accordance with the mandate given by the General Assembly, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States will ensure coordinated follow-up to and effective monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action, and will undertake advocacy efforts at the national, regional and global levels. The Office of the High Representative, in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, should work on developing relevant indicators for measuring the progress on implementing the Programme of Action in landlocked developing countries, within their existing mandates.

78. The General Assembly is invited to consider conducting a comprehensive high-level midterm review on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024. The Assembly, towards the end of the decade, is also invited to consider holding a third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries in order to undertake a comprehensive appraisal of the implementation of the present Programme of Action and to decide on subsequent action.

United Nations A/RES/69/138

General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 January 2015

Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 3 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 15 December 2014

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/69/617)*]

69/138. Credentials of representatives to the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Credentials Committee [1] and the recommendation contained therein,

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.[1]

72nd plenary meeting
15 December 2014

[1] A/69/617.

14-67269 (E)

Please recycle

United Nations A/RES/69/139

General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 January 2015

Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 14

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 15 December 2014

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/69/L.34 and Add.1)*]

69/139. Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles contained therein, and especially the dedication to saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

Recalling the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which states that, "since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed",

Recognizing the importance of the Declaration[1] and Programme of Action[2] on a Culture of Peace, which serve as the universal mandate for the international community, particularly the United Nations system, for the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence that benefits humanity, in particular future generations,

Recalling its previous resolutions on a culture of peace, in particular resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997 proclaiming 2000 the International Year for the Culture of Peace, resolution 53/25 of 10 November 1998 proclaiming the period 2001-2010 the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, and resolutions 56/5 of 5 November 2001, 57/6 of 4 November 2002, 58/11 of 10 November 2003, 59/143 of 15 December 2004, 60/3 of 20 October 2005, 61/45 of 4 December 2006, 62/89 of 17 December 2007, 63/113 of 5 December 2008, 64/80 of 7 December 2009, 65/11 of 23 November 2010, 66/116 of 12 December 2011, 67/106 of 17 December 2012 and 68/125 of 18 December 2013, adopted under its agenda item entitled "Culture of peace",

Recalling also its resolution 68/127 of 18 December 2013 on a world against violence and violent extremism,

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] which calls for the active promotion of a culture of peace,

[1] Resolution 53/243 A.
[2] Resolution 53/243 B.
[3] Resolution 55/2.

14-67270 (E)

Please recycle

Taking note of the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly,[4]

Welcoming the observance of 2 October as the International Day of Non-Violence, as proclaimed by the United Nations,[5]

Recognizing that all efforts made by the United Nations system in general and the international community at large for peacekeeping, peacebuilding, the prevention of conflicts, disarmament, sustainable development, the promotion of human dignity and human rights, democracy, the rule of law, good governance and gender equality at the national and international levels contribute greatly to the culture of peace,

Recognizing also the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world, of choosing dialogue and negotiations over confrontation and of working together and not against each other,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[6] which provides an overview of the activities that have been carried out by the main United Nations entities working in the areas of a culture of peace and interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace since the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolutions 68/125 and 68/126 of 18 December 2013,

Recalling the proclamation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of 21 February as International Mother Language Day, which aims at protecting, promoting and preserving linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism, in order to foster and enrich a culture of peace, social harmony, cross-cultural dialogue and mutual understanding,

Recalling also the proclamation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of 30 April as International Jazz Day, which aims to develop and increase intercultural exchanges and understanding between cultures for the purpose of mutual comprehension, tolerance and the promotion of a culture of peace,

Welcoming the efforts of the international community to enhance understanding through constructive dialogue among civilizations,

Expressing its appreciation for the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in promoting a culture of peace through a number of practical projects in the areas of youth, education, media and migrations, in collaboration with Governments, international organizations, foundations and civil society groups, as well as media and the private sector,

Welcoming the successful holding on 9 September 2014 of the General Assembly High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace, convened by the President of the Assembly, and the high-level participation, wide-ranging partnership and inclusive collaboration among Member States, international organizations and civil society, as evidenced at the Forum, and welcoming also with appreciation the observance by the Forum of the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action,

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[4] Resolution 60/1.

[5] Resolution 61/271.

[6] A/69/413.

Recognizing the role of women and young people in advancing the culture of peace and, in particular, the importance of greater involvement of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in activities promoting a culture of peace, including in post-conflict situations,

Welcoming the adoption by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-sixth session of a programme of action for a culture of peace and non-violence, and noting that the objectives of that programme of action are in line with the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace adopted by the General Assembly,

Recalling the Yamoussoukro Declaration on Peace in the Minds of Men, and acknowledging the observance in 2014 of the twenty-fifth anniversary of its adoption,

Noting the initiatives of civil society, in collaboration with Governments, to strengthen civilian capacities to enhance the physical safety of vulnerable populations under threat of violence and to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes,

Encouraging the continued and increasing efforts and activities on the part of civil society organizations throughout the world in advancing the culture of peace as envisaged in the Declaration and Programme of Action,

1. *Reiterates* that the objective of the effective implementation of the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace[2] is to strengthen further the global movement for a culture of peace following the observance of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001–2010, and calls upon all concerned to renew their attention to this objective;

2. *Notes* the importance of giving due consideration to a culture of peace in the context of the post-2015 development agenda;

3. *Invites* Member States to continue to place greater emphasis on and expand their activities promoting a culture of peace at the national, regional and international levels and to ensure that peace and non-violence are fostered at all levels;

4. *Invites* the entities of the United Nations system, within their existing mandates, to integrate, as appropriate, the eight action areas of the Programme of Action into their programmes of activities, focusing on promoting a culture of peace and non-violence at the national, regional and international levels;

5. *Commends* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for strengthening efforts to mobilize all relevant stakeholders within and outside the United Nations system in support of a culture of peace, and invites the Organization to continue to enhance communication and outreach, including through the culture of peace website and in the context of the celebration of its seventieth anniversary;

6. *Commends* the practical initiatives and actions by relevant United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the University for Peace, as well as their activities in further promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, including the promotion of peace education and activities related to specific areas identified in the Programme of Action, and encourages them to continue and further strengthen and expand their efforts;

7. *Encourages* the United Nations peacebuilding architecture to continue to promote peacebuilding activities and to advance a culture of peace and non-violence in post-conflict peacebuilding efforts at the country level;

8. *Urges* the appropriate authorities to provide age-appropriate education in children's schools that builds a culture of peace, including lessons in mutual understanding, tolerance, active citizenship and human rights;

9. *Encourages* the involvement of media, especially the mass media, in promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, with particular regard to children and young people;

10. *Commends* civil society, non-governmental organizations and young people for their activities in further promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, including through their campaign to raise awareness on a culture of peace and the peaceful settlement of disputes;

11. *Encourages* civil society and non-governmental organizations to further strengthen their efforts to promote a culture of peace, inter alia, by adopting their own programme of activities to complement the initiatives of Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, in line with the Declaration[1] and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace;

12. *Invites* Member States, all parts of the United Nations system and civil society organizations to accord increasing attention to their observance of the International Day of Peace on 21 September each year as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/282 of 7 September 2001;

13. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to consider convening a high-level forum, as appropriate and within existing resources, devoted to the implementation of the Programme of Action on the occasion of the anniversary of its adoption, on or around 13 September;

14. *Invites* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, in consultation with the Member States and taking into account the observations of civil society organizations, to explore mechanisms and strategies, in particular strategies in the sphere of information and communications technology, for the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action and to initiate outreach efforts to increase global awareness of the Programme of Action and its eight areas of action aimed at their implementation;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report, within existing resources, on actions taken by Member States, on the basis of information provided by them, and those taken system-wide by all concerned entities of the United Nations to implement the present resolution and on heightened activities by the Organization and its affiliated agencies to implement the Programme of Action and to promote the culture of peace and non-violence;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Culture of peace".

72nd plenary meeting
15 December 2014

General Assembly

Distr.: General
23 January 2015

Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 14

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 15 December 2014

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/69/L.41 and Add.1)*]

69/140. Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] in particular the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,

Recalling its resolution 68/126 of 18 December 2013 on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace and its other related resolutions,

Recalling also that in its resolution 67/104 the General Assembly proclaimed the period 2013–2022 as the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures,

Encouraging, in this regard, activities aimed at promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue in order to enhance peace and social stability, respect for diversity and mutual respect and to create, at the global level, and also at the regional, national and local levels, an environment conducive to peace and mutual understanding,

Recalling its resolution 64/14 of 10 November 2009 on the Alliance of Civilizations, in which it welcomed and expressed continuing support for the efforts made by the Secretary-General and his High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations to promote greater understanding and respect among civilizations, cultures and religions,

Recalling also its resolution 68/127 of 18 December 2013 on a world against violence and violent extremism,

Recalling further its resolution 53/22 of 4 November 1998, by which it declared 2001 the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations and expressed its firm determination to facilitate and promote dialogue among civilizations,

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

Please recycle

Bearing in mind the valuable contribution that interreligious and intercultural dialogue can make to an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

Noting that interreligious and intercultural dialogue has made significant contributions to mutual understanding, tolerance and respect, as well as to the promotion of a culture of peace and an improvement of overall relations among people from different cultural and religious backgrounds and among nations,

Recognizing that cultural diversity and the pursuit of cultural development by all peoples and nations are sources of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind,

Recalling its resolution 36/55 of 25 November 1981, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

Bearing in mind that tolerance of cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversities contributes towards peace, mutual understanding and friendship among people of different cultures and nations and that these diversities should be made part of intercultural and interreligious dialogue efforts, as appropriate,

Emphasizing the importance of culture for development and its contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and recognizing the importance of giving due consideration to culture in the ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, and in this regard noting the close links between cultural diversity, dialogue and development,

Noting the various initiatives at the local, national, regional and international levels for enhancing dialogue, understanding and cooperation among religions, beliefs, cultures and civilizations, which are mutually reinforcing and interrelated,

Welcoming the leading role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as the work of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, in promoting intercultural dialogue,

Welcoming also the declaration of the High-level Conference on Intercultural and Interfaith Dialogue adopted by the Asia-Europe Meeting, with the theme "Harmony between civilizations as a prerequisite for sustainable development", held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, on 3 and 4 July 2014,

Welcoming further the work of the Anna Lindh Foundation and the ongoing work of the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue in Vienna,

Taking note of the initiative for education for peace through interreligious and intercultural dialogue in Africa, and the offer of the Government of Benin to host an international symposium on the initiative in Cotonou, Benin, during the first half of 2015,

Acknowledging the positive contribution of individuals and of relevant civil society organizations to the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and the culture of peace,

Recognizing the contributions of the media and of new information and communications technology to promoting peoples' understanding of different cultures and religions, including through the promotion of dialogue,

Reaffirming the importance of sustaining the process of engaging all stakeholders, including young men and women as relevant actors, in interreligious and intercultural dialogue within the appropriate initiatives at various levels, which aims to challenge prejudices and improve mutual understanding,

Recognizing the commitment of all religions to peace and the need for voices of moderation from all religions and beliefs to work together in order to build a more secure and peaceful world,

1. *Reaffirms* that mutual understanding and interreligious and intercultural dialogue constitute important dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations and of the culture of peace;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on promotion of a culture of peace and interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace;[2]

3. *Recognizes* the importance of interreligious dialogue and its valuable contribution to promoting social cohesion, peace and development, and calls upon Member States to consider, as appropriate and where applicable, interreligious and intercultural dialogue as an important tool in efforts aimed at achieving peace and social stability and the full realization of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to give due consideration to culture in the ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development agenda;

4. *Also recognizes* the efforts by relevant stakeholders to foster peaceful and harmonious coexistence within societies by promoting respect for religious and cultural diversity, including by engendering sustained and robust interaction among various segments of society;

5. *Further recognizes* the leading role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on intercultural dialogue and its contribution to interreligious dialogue, as well as its activities related to the culture of peace and non-violence and its focus on concrete actions at the global, regional and subregional levels;

6. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Action Plan for the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013–2022),[3] by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in consultation with Member States and the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, which provides a framework to enhance interreligious and intercultural dialogue and to promote tolerance and mutual understanding, while placing emphasis on the involvement of women and youth in such dialogue;

7. *Encourages* Member States and the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to carry out activities in support of the Action Plan for the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013–2022);

8. *Condemns* any advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media or any other means;

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[2] A/69/413.

[3] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Executive Board decision 194 EX/10.

9. *Reaffirms* the solemn commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for and observance and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and other instruments relating to human rights and international law, the universal nature of these rights and freedoms being beyond question;

10. *Welcomes* the Bali Declaration adopted at the Sixth Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, with the theme "Unity in diversity: celebrating diversity for common and shared values", held in Bali, Indonesia, on 29 and 30 August 2014, encourages relevant stakeholders to continue their efforts to promote mutual understanding among different civilizations, cultures, religions and beliefs, and in this regard looks forward to the next meeting of the Global Forum, in Azerbaijan in 2016;

11. *Underlines* the importance of moderation as a value within societies for countering extremism in all its aspects and for further contributing to the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation, and encourages efforts, as appropriate, to enable voices of moderation to be heard;

12. *Welcomes* the efforts by the media to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, encourages the further promotion of dialogue among the media from all cultures and civilizations, emphasizes that everyone has the right to freedom of expression, and reaffirms that the exercise of this right carries with it special duties and responsibilities and may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but that these shall be only such as are provided by law and necessary for respect of the rights or reputations of others, protection of national security or of public order, or of public health or morals;

13. *Also welcomes* the efforts to use information and communications technology, including the Internet, to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, including through the Interfaith Dialogue e-Portal established following the Special Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development, held in Manila in 2010, as well as the Peace and Dialogue e-Portal of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and encourages relevant stakeholders to utilize the opportunity to disseminate their best practices and experiences on interreligious and intercultural dialogue by contributing to the Interfaith Dialogue e-Portal and to the Peace and Dialogue e-Portal;

14. *Encourages* Member States to consider, as and where appropriate, initiatives that identify areas for practical action in all sectors and levels of society for the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation, inter alia, the ideas suggested during the High-level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace, held in New York in October 2007, including the idea of an enhanced process of dialogue among world religions, as well as the ideas suggested during the third High Panel on Peace and Dialogue among Cultures, held in Paris in November 2012;

15. *Acknowledges* the active engagement of the United Nations system with faith-based organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations in the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue and in bringing together people of different cultures, religions, faiths or beliefs to discuss common issues and objectives;

16. *Also acknowledges* the important role of civil society, including academia and volunteer groups, in fostering interreligious and intercultural dialogue, and encourages support for practical measures that mobilize civil society, including building capacities, opportunities and frameworks for cooperation;

17. *Invites* Member States to further promote reconciliation to help to ensure durable peace and sustained development, including by working with faith leaders and communities and through reconciliatory measures and acts of service and by encouraging forgiveness and compassion among individuals;

18. *Recognizes* that the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat plays a valuable role as focal point within the Secretariat on the issue, and encourages it to continue to interact and coordinate with the relevant entities of the United Nations system and coordinate their contribution to the intergovernmental process aimed at promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

72nd plenary meeting
15 December 2014

General Assembly

Distr.: General
22 January 2015

Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 26

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2014

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/69/480)*]

69/141. Literacy for life: shaping future agendas

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/116 of 19 December 2001, by which it proclaimed the 10-year period beginning on 1 January 2003 the United Nations Literacy Decade, its resolution 57/166 of 18 December 2002, in which it welcomed the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade,[1] and its resolutions 59/149 of 20 December 2004, 61/140 of 19 December 2006, 63/154 of 18 December 2008, 65/183 of 21 December 2010 and 68/132 of 18 December 2013,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] in which Member States resolved to ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, would be able to complete a full course of primary schooling and that girls and boys would have equal access to all levels of education, which requires a renewed commitment to promote literacy for all,

Reaffirming the Education for All goals, in particular goal 3, on ensuring that the learning needs of all young people and adults are met through equitable access to appropriate learning and life-skills programmes, and goal 4, on achieving a 50 per cent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults,

Convinced that literacy is crucial to the acquisition by every child, young person and adult of the essential life skills that will enable them to address the challenges that they may face in life and represents an essential condition of lifelong learning, which is an indispensable means for effective participation in the knowledge societies and economies of the twenty-first century,

Reaffirming the right of indigenous peoples to have non-discriminatory access to all levels and forms of education provided by States, and recognizing the importance of effective measures to promote access for indigenous individuals, in particular children, to education in their own language, whenever possible, as addressed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,[3]

[1] See A/57/218 and Corr.1.
[2] Resolution 55/2.
[3] Resolution 61/295, annex.

Please recycle

Deeply concerned that, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 781 million adults do not have basic literacy skills and 58 million children of primary and 63 million children of secondary school age remain out of school, that an estimated 250 million children of primary school age are failing to acquire basic literacy skills, that millions more young people leave school without a level of literacy adequate for productive and active participation in their societies, that the issue of literacy may not be sufficiently high on national agendas to generate the kind of political and economic support required to address global literacy challenges and that the world is unlikely to meet those challenges if present trends continue,

Recognizing that literacy is a foundation for lifelong learning, a building block for achieving human rights and fundamental freedoms and a driver of sustainable development and that the United Nations Literacy Decade (2003–2012) had a catalytic effect as a global framework for sustained and focused efforts for the promotion of literacy and literate environments,

Welcoming the convening of the International Conference on Girls' and Women's Literacy and Education: Foundations for Sustainable Development, held in Dhaka and co-hosted by the Government of Bangladesh and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in support of the Global Education First Initiative and on the occasion of International Literacy Day, on 8 September 2014, and taking note with appreciation of the adoption of the Dhaka Declaration,

Taking note of the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals,[4] which shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, and acknowledging that it includes a goal on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all with a stand-alone target on literacy,

Affirming that the realization of the right to education, especially for girls, contributes to the promotion of human rights, gender equality and the eradication of poverty, as well as to development,

Recognizing the importance of continuing to implement national programmes and measures to eliminate illiteracy worldwide as reflected in the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All, adopted on 28 April 2000 at the World Education Forum,[5] and in the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard also recognizing the important contribution of South-South and triangular cooperation through, inter alia, innovative pedagogical methods in literacy,

Deeply concerned about the persistence of the gender gap in education, which is reflected by the fact that, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, nearly two thirds of the world's non-literate adults are women,

Concerned that, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, one third of the children not attending school are children

[4] A/68/970 and Corr.1.

[5] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26–28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

with disabilities and that the literacy rate among adults with disabilities is as low as 3 per cent in some countries,

Deeply concerned about the impact of disrupted educational services in humanitarian emergencies on efforts to promote literacy skills, especially for all children and young people,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization entitled "Literacy for life: shaping future agendas";[6]

2. *Commends* the efforts made by Member States, their development partners, the international donor community, the private sector, civil society and the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the lead organization of the United Nations Literacy Decade, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in promoting the right to education, including by making progress on the goals of the Decade;

3. *Recognizes* the importance of continuing to implement national programmes and measures for everyone to acquire, use and advance literacy skills in order to eliminate illiteracy worldwide, enhancing further political and financial commitments, in particular for youth and adult literacy and non-formal education, intensifying collective efforts through enhanced education systems and interventions and building a robust knowledge and technical base through improved literacy monitoring, assessment and research;

4. *Calls upon* all Governments to develop reliable measures of literacy and generate data that are comparable across time and disaggregated by age, sex, disability, socioeconomic status, geographical location (urban/rural areas) and other relevant factors;

5. *Encourages* Member States, their development partners and the specialized agencies and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to sustain and expand the gains achieved during the Decade through improving the integration of literacy into sector-wide and multisectoral education and development strategies, expanding the provision of quality literacy programmes, enhancing education systems to provide quality basic education through schooling, enriching literate environments to allow people to acquire, use and advance literacy skills and promoting literacy for women and girls, as well as for marginalized groups, for their empowerment and inclusion in societies;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue its coordinating and catalysing role in the fight against illiteracy, including in the context of the agenda for the period following the United Nations Literacy Decade, through developing Member States' capacities in the areas of policies, programme delivery and literacy assessments, scaling up literacy actions for girls and women, reinforcing innovative models of literacy delivery, including through information and communications technologies, and expanding the knowledge base and monitoring and evaluation, as well as advocating literacy on the global agenda and ensuring synergies between different actions, including through multi-stakeholder partnerships and networks;

[6] A/69/183.

7. *Encourages* efforts to provide education for all, especially for boys and girls, in humanitarian emergencies, including in order to contribute to a smooth transition from relief to development;

8. *Recognizes* the continued need to give appropriate consideration to the issue of literacy in the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Social development", the sub-item entitled "Literacy for life: shaping future agendas".

73rd plenary meeting
18 December 2014

Recalling further the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[5] the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[6] and the outcome document of the 2011 high-level plenary meeting of the Assembly on HIV and AIDS, entitled "Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS",[7] which contain references to the rights, participation, well-being and perspectives of persons with disabilities in development efforts,

Recognizing that persons with disabilities make up an estimated 15 per cent of the world's population, or 1 billion people, of whom an estimated 80 per cent live in developing countries, and acknowledging the value of their contribution to the general well-being, progress and diversity of society,

Gravely concerned that persons with disabilities, in particular women, children, youth, indigenous peoples and older persons, continue to be subject to multiple and aggravated forms of discrimination and are still largely invisible in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals and the internationally agreed development goals, and noting that, while progress has already been made by Governments, the international community and the United Nations system in mainstreaming disability, in particular the rights of persons with disabilities, as an integral part of the development agenda, major challenges remain,

Underlining the need for urgent action by all stakeholders towards the adoption and implementation of more ambitious disability-inclusive national development strategies and efforts with disability-targeted actions, backed by increased international cooperation and support,

Stressing the need for capacity development efforts aimed at empowering persons with disabilities and their representative organizations to ensure equal access to full and productive employment and decent work on an equal basis and without discrimination to persons with disabilities, including by promoting access to inclusive education systems, skills development, volunteering opportunities and vocational and entrepreneurial training in order to enable persons with disabilities to attain and maintain maximum independence,

Concerned that persons with disabilities are disproportionately affected in disaster, emergency and conflict situations, as well as by poverty,

Concerned also that the continuing lack of statistics and reliable data and information on the situation of persons with disabilities at the national, regional and global levels contributes to their exclusion in official statistics, presenting an obstacle to achieving development planning and implementation that is inclusive of persons with disabilities,

Stressing the importance of collecting and analysing reliable data on persons with disabilities following existing guidelines on disability statistics,[8] encouraging ongoing efforts to improve data collection in order to disaggregate data with regard to persons

[5] Resolution 65/1.

[6] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[7] Resolution 65/277, annex.

[8] Such as the *Guidelines and Principles for the Development of Disability Statistics* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.XVII.15), and the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.07.XVII.8), and their updates.

with disabilities by gender and age, and underlining the need for internationally comparable data to assess progress on development policies that are inclusive of persons with disabilities,

1. *Reaffirms* the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities,[9] held on 23 September 2013, at the level of Heads of State and Government, with the overarching theme "The way forward: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond", and also reaffirms the commitments contained therein;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities: a disability-inclusive development agenda towards 2015 and beyond",[10] and the recommendations contained therein;

3. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General entitled "A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015",[11] in which the consideration of the inclusion of disability as a cross-cutting issue across the successor set of goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda was recommended;

4. *Recalls* its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals[12] and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, and acknowledges that the report of the Open Working Group integrates a disability perspective;

5. *Recognizes* the continued need to give appropriate consideration to the issue of the rights of persons with disabilities in relation to the post-2015 development agenda;

6. *Expresses appreciation* to Member States and United Nations entities that have submitted information on progress made towards the realization of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, including on specific priorities for action, and data and analysis on persons with disabilities, and urges Member States and relevant United Nations entities that have not already done so to submit the requested information;

7. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the rights of persons with disabilities to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights", as a way to enhance communication between the Assembly and the Committee;

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[9] Resolution 68/3.

[10] A/69/187.

[11] A/68/202 and Corr.1.

[12] A/68/970 and Corr.1.

8. *Welcomes* Human Rights Council resolution 26/20 of 27 June 2014,[13] in which the Council established the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, which included making concrete recommendations on how to better promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, including how to contribute to the realization of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, for persons with disabilities, how to promote development that is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities and how to promote their role as both agents for and beneficiaries of development;

9. *Urges* Member States, United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations, regional integration organizations and financial institutions to make a concerted effort to include persons with disabilities and to integrate the principles of accessibility and inclusion into the monitoring and evaluation of the development goals;

10. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders to further improve coordination among existing international processes and instruments in order to advance a disability-inclusive global agenda;

11. *Emphasizes* the importance of mainstreaming the perspectives of persons with disabilities in disaster risk reduction, and recognizes the need for their inclusive participation in and contribution to disaster preparedness, emergency response, recovery and the transition from relief to development, as well as the implementation of policies and programmes that are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

12. *Encourages* the mobilization of resources on a sustainable basis to mainstream disability in development at all levels, and in this regard underlines the need to promote and strengthen international cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation, in support of national efforts, including, as appropriate, through the establishment of national mechanisms, in particular in developing countries;

13. *Welcomes* the contributions made to the United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities trust fund, and in this regard encourages Member States and other stakeholders to support its objectives, including by providing voluntary contributions;

14. *Requests* the United Nations system to facilitate technical assistance, within existing resources, including the provision of assistance for capacity-building and for the collection and compilation of national and regional data and statistics on persons with disabilities, in particular to developing countries, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General, in accordance with existing guidelines on disability statistics, to analyse, publish and disseminate disability data and statistics in future periodic reports, as appropriate, on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities;

15. *Welcomes* the opening of the Accessibility Centre at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and requests the Secretary-General to continue the progressive implementation of relevant standards and guidelines with respect to the accessibility of facilities and services in the United Nations system, taking into account relevant provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,[3] in particular when undertaking renovations, including interim arrangements;

16. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations organizations and mechanisms, including the newly appointed Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with

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[13] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/69/53), chap. V, sect. A.

disabilities, and the regional commissions to make all efforts to engage with and ensure accessibility for the full and effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities, in cooperation with organizations of persons with disabilities and, as appropriate, national human rights institutions, in development processes and decision-making at the local, national, regional and international levels;

17. *Encourages* Member States that have not yet done so to adopt a national disability strategy that can be operationalized, including through measurable and appropriate targets and indicators, and that assigns responsibility to and incorporates the views of a broad range of stakeholders, including persons with disabilities and their representative organizations;

18. *Requests* the United Nations system, in particular the Statistical Commission, in consultation with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, within the scope of her mandate, within existing resources, to update existing methodologies for the collection and analysis of data on persons with disabilities, to obtain internationally comparable data on the situation of persons with disabilities and to regularly include relevant data on disability or relevant qualitative facts, as appropriate, in relevant United Nations publications in the field of economic and social development;

19. *Encourages* Member States to take appropriate steps to expedite the mainstreaming of data on disability into official statistics;

20. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to organize, during the seventieth session of the Assembly, a panel discussion to follow up on the status of and progress made towards the realization of the development goals for persons with disabilities in relation to the follow-up to the outcome of the high-level meeting on disability and development[9] and to the principles of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in coordination with all relevant United Nations entities:

(*a*) To submit information to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the present resolution and of the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disabilities, and to make appropriate recommendations to further strengthen implementation;

(*b*) To compile and analyse national policies, programmes, best practices and available statistics regarding persons with disabilities, reflecting progress made in addressing the relevant internationally agreed development goals and the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to be submitted to the General Assembly in a flagship report during 2018.

73rd plenary meeting
18 December 2014